Hafa Adai!

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ACCJC to decide on NMC status by month's end. PAGE 2

House committee offers revised FY '09 budget. PAGE 3

OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Should there be more than just one legal cockfighting arena on Saipan?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

Last Conference

With rare public emotion, George W. Bush sat in judgment on his controversial, consequential presidency on Monday.

NATION...Page 14

'Bride Wars'

Who takes longer to get dressed? That's a no-brainer when the choice lies between Kate Hudson and Anne Hathaway.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 20

DHS officials arrive tomorrow to discuss visa waiver, regs

By KRISTI EATON
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REPORTER

Two groups of delegates from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security will be on island beginning tomorrow to meet with members of the community to discuss the impending federal takeover of local immigration.

The first group is made of up representatives from the policy division, and is headed by Alex Hartman, who, as policy advisor at the DHS' Office of Policy, is responsible for coordinating all policy initiatives between DHS and agencies to implement the new immigration law and the Guam-CNMI visa waiver program.

On Thursday the federal government is poised to announce regulations that

See DHS on Page 4

Poker establishments cry foul

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Several poker establishments are crying foul over a resolution calling for the phase out of all poker machines in the CNMI, except those in licensed casinos, by June 30, 2009, saying it unfairly targets their businesses and puts to waste the thousands of dollars they spent to enhance security, not to mention the lesser revenue for the government and the hundreds of people who will lose their jobs.

The resolution, passed by the Governor's Strategic Economic Development Council, was adopted on Dec. 16, 2008.

Pacific Amusement owners Paul Trombetta and Jim Gebhard said they are not exactly sure what the reason behind the SEDC resolution is.

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MARK RABAGO
The Treasure Island Game Club operates 29 poker machines in Garapan.

Permits of 155 garment workers revoked Jan. 31

Shutdown of Uno Moda to also affect 55 local workers

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Department of Labor has ordered the revocation of the work permits of 155 alien workers at Uno Moda Corp. effective Jan. 31, 2009, the date of the garment factory's shutdown.

WALT GOODRIDGE
The empty sewing lines of Uno Moda Corp. gives an ominous preview of what the place would look like effective Jan. 31, 2009, when the garment factory shuts down.

Labor hearing officer Jerry Cody granted all the 155 aliens, all Chinese, a chance to transfer to new employers.

As this developed, Labor Director Barry A. Hirsbein opened a "compliance agency case" to ensure the orderly transfer of all affected Uno Moda alien workers who hold valid work permits at the time the company ceases operations.

In his order, Cody said the workers who want

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MAKE THE COMMITMENT!

CERVICAL CANCER AWARENESS MONTH
JANUARY 2009

ROTA HEALTH FAIR
Friday, January 16, 2009
ROTA PUBLIC HEALTH PARKING LOT
7:30 AM to NOON
(EXHIBITION BOOTHS AND GIVEAWAYS)

FREE PAP TEST SCREENING TO WOMEN WHO:
- Are 18 years of age and older
- Has resided in the CNMI for at least 1 year
- Meet BCSP income guidelines
- Has no medical insurance or has medical insurance that require a co-payment

CANDLELIGHT VIGIL
Thursday, January 15 • 4:30 p.m.
Pinatang Park to Leadership Park

HEALTH WALK
Tatachog to Pinatang park
Saturday, January 17 & 24 • 6:30 a.m.
FREE Blood Pressure Check, Blood Sugar Check and Weight Monitoring

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT PUBLIC HEALTH @ 532-9461

Rota Diabetic Association
Comprehensive Cancer Control Program
Rota Mayor's Office
CNMI Diabetes Prevention and Control Program

Local

WAX MUSEUM MURAL HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

A woman and a man walk past a fading mural depicting the Spanish colonization of the Northern Marianas on the back wall of the Wax Museum of Saipan in Garapan Tuesday afternoon. More than two years after its grand opening on Nov. 17, 2006, the $2.3 million wax museum has yet to gain popularity among tourists and local residents.

Accrediting body to decide on NMC's status by month's end

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges is expected to decide on the accreditation status of the Northern Marianas College by the end of this month.

Board of Regents chair Charles Cepeda and NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez had just returned from San Francisco, California, where they met the members of the commission.

Fernandez clarified yesterday that, while the decision is still to be made, NMC's accreditation with ACCJC-WASC was not taken out during the show-cause period.

"Although we won't know the commission's decision until later this month, I want to stress that NMC remains fully accredited during the show-cause period."

NMC said this is contrary to what some in the community believe. NMC said it has been receiving some inquiries about it.

She stressed that all academic credits and degrees from NMC will remain accredited and will be transferable to other accredited institutions.

During their meeting with the commission, Fernandez informed the body about NMC's ongoing professional development trainings.

She also discussed the newly published institutional guide and the results of the strategic plan that would be submitted and reviewed by the Planning, Program Review and Assessment Outcomes Committee.

Fernandez also reported to the commission some of NMC's ongoing activities that include assessment of the first cycle of program review, faculty assembly, employee training, and all course-level student learning outcomes.

Other highlights of Fernandez's report to the commission were:

Hiring of a highly qualified chief financial and administrative officer and other key staff,

All academic department chairs will be attending the WASC Student Learning and Assessment Level I training; and

NMC will continue to invest in training and development to build capacity at all levels of the college.

Fernandez said the meeting went well.

Two sue car driver over smashup

A couple has sued the operator of a vehicle that allegedly struck their car at the Microl intersection in San Jose last year, resulting in injuries to the wife.

Chang Sook Kim and Jae Won Kim sued Nobuyuki Kurosawa for negligence.

The Kim couple, through counsel Michael White, asked the Superior Court to order Kurosawa to pay them damages and court costs.

White stated in the complaint that Mrs. Chang Kim was the owner and operator of a 2008 Nissan Altima car, while Kurosawa was the driver of a 2007 Toyota Camry car.

White said that, on March 17, 2008 at 3:31pm, the defendant's car was involved in an accident with Mrs. Kim's vehicle at the intersection of Beach Road and Chalan Monsignor Guerrero.

The lawyer said Kurosawa's vehicle hit the rear of Mrs. Kim's vehicle, which had stopped for cross traffic.

White said that, as a result of Kurosawa's negligence, Mrs. Kim suffered severe injuries and "will continue to suffer severe physical and mental pain and anguish."

Mr. Kim, he said, "has been deprived of the consortium and companionship of Mrs. Kim, all to his damage." ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

House committee offers revised FY '09 budget

By KRISTI EATON
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REPORTER

The chairman of the House Ways and Means committee has introduced a new fiscal year 2009 budget bill that appropriates $156.76 million in resources—nearly $9 million less than the original Legislature-approved budget vetoed by the governor.

Rep. Ray Yumul introduced the proposed budget, which includes $148.1 million of projected government revenue, augmented with $5.17 million in Compact Impact funds and $3.5 million of "unencumbered" money taken from numerous accounts outside the general fund.

A separate $3 million is proposed for the Department of Public Lands, whose revenue is constitutionally reserved for the agency's administrative costs and for investment by the Marianas Public Land Trust, and cannot be used for central government operations.

BUDGET BREAKDOWN

Judicial branch	$3,570,351
Legislative branch	$6,125,624
Resident Representative's Office	$305,984
Executive branch	$70,588,385
First Senatorial district	$8,404,285
Second Senatorial district	$8,402,091
Third Senatorial district	$1,818,795
Boards and Commissions	$546,790
Independent programs	$2,364,171
Other programs	$45,987,524
Department of Public Lands	$3,093,874
Compact Impact funds	$5,171,914
Outside general fund sources	$3,500,000
TOTAL	**$159,849,788**

Gov. Benigno Fitial vetoed the Legislature's earlier approved budget of $165.4 million on Dec. 24, 2008, citing an $8 million decrease in projected revenue. The government has now gone without a fiscal year 2009 budget for 106 days since the start of the fiscal year on Oct. 1.

Excluding DPL, the new budget provides for 4,019 full-time government employees. The personnel cap represents a payroll of $106.37 million, a decrease of $5.83 million from the Legislature's earlier approved budget. Under the new proposal, the remainder will go to non-personnel, $41.43 million, and utilities, $8.95 million. Previously, the budget allotted $43.7 million and $9.5 million for non-personnel and utilities, respectively.

The bill sets the employer pension contribution rate at 11 percent of the payroll, much lower than the 37.4 percent recommended by the NMI Retirement Fund's actuarial consultant.

Fitial and Finance Secretary Eloy Inos had been urging the Legislature to reduce the Retirement Fund contributions.

The bill freezes salaries and new hires for government employees, except for those in critical agencies such as heath, education and public safety. Annual compensation for department heads would be capped at $45,000.

Employee benefits, such as a housing allowance, totaling $1.55 million would be allotted to the Department of Public Health's Secretary.

Under the budget bill, CNMI government agencies will be prohibited from using their appropriations to sue another local agency. Government agencies would be assessed a 1 percent fee for the Office of the Public Auditor. However, the Public School System's OPA fee would be used exclusively for the procurement of textbooks.

The now-defunct Resident Representative's Office would receive $305,984 to cover the costs incurred from Oct. 1 to its closure on Jan. 3.

The appropriation bill allows those employees of the CNMI Division of Immigration who will be terminated because of the federal takeover of local immigration the option to withdraw his or her accruals from the benefit plan.

The Department of Labor's Secretary is required under the appropriations bill to submit a report to the Legislature by May 1 that would, among other things, present the number of legal and illegal foreign workers present during the last two years, and the number of residents enrolled and successfully placed into jobs through Employment Services.

The House of Representatives is expected to begin debating the budget bill during a session this afternoon. Yesterday, Senate President Pete Reyes said once the House of Representatives passes the budget he would quickly convene the Senate to discuss the bill.

Siemer answers alien workers' class suit

'Superior Court has no jurisdiction'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Superior Court has no jurisdiction over the class action filed by 127 alien workers against the Department of Labor and its top officials because the case fails to meet the requirements for a class lawsuit, according to attorney Deanne Siemer.

Siemer, as special counsel for Labor, asserted that there is no commonality of status among the individual plaintiffs or the bonding companies.

There is also no commonality of the defenses that might be raised by the bonding companies to payment under the bonds, said Siemer in Labor's and its officials' response to the class action.

The class action was filed against Labor, its Secretary Gil M. San Nicolas, Deputy Secretary Cinta Kaipat, and Labor Director Barry Hirshbein.

The class action also named as co-defendants 20 unnamed surety or bonding or insurance companies that issued surety labor bonds to the employers of the plaintiffs.

On behalf of the 127 workers who have unpaid wages and other damages pursuant to Labor administrative orders, attorney Robert Myers asked the Superior Court to force Labor and its co-defendants to enforce the surety's obligations under the statutory labor bonds.

Myers asked the court to immediately order Labor to collect all surety bonds issued by the surety or insurance companies that were delivered to the Labor director, naming Labor as the obligee on the bonds.

The total proceeds of the labor bonds involved in the class action amounts to $557,977, according to Myers.

In the defendants' answer, Siemer said the plaintiffs named in the complaint could not constitute a class that would allow them to file a class action under

See SIEMER on Page 4

Announcement for the Opening of the
Psychology Practice of Dr. Ron Meister
(Licensed Psychologist 670 322-0349)
At the NMPASI conference room
Located just north of the Gualo Rai intersection
On Friday January 16th from 3:30 to 6:00 p.m.
Thai refreshments will be served.
All are welcome!! No RSVP required

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— Retinal Physician Magazine, April 2008

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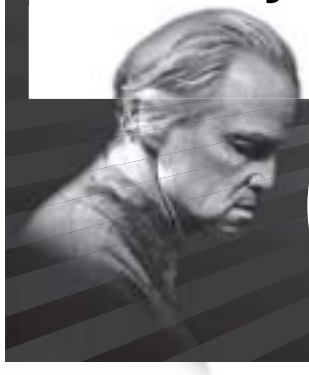
Super Bowl Party
SUPER BOWL XLIII SUPER BOWL XLIII
Monday, February 2, 2009
Party starts at 8:00 a.m.

Last Show
STREET BEAT
This Thursday Night
8:30PM

Godfather's Bar WHERE EVERYBODY IS FAMILY
GARAPAN'S PARTY BAR!
Miller Lite
Thursday Night
Miller Family Beers
$3.00 (bottle)

Over 500 students register for NMC Spring 2009

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College reported over 500 students who turned up Monday at the start of the registration for Spring 2009 classes.

The turnout was slightly better compared to those who registered in the first day of registration on Aug. 18, 2008, for the Fall 2008 classes, according to NMC sources, but no exact figures were immediately available.

The new number of enrollees for the upcoming semester is, however, way below the 900 students who registered in Spring 2008.

Despite this, NMC is glad about the opening day registration turnout.

"We are pleased to see that many people are turning to NMC to advance personally and professionally," said NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez.

She said NMC would continue its recruitment efforts, reminding everyone that it's not too late to submit their application forms.

"We are continuing the accreditation efforts that begun last year. In the meantime, I want to remind and reassure current and prospective students that NMC is fully accredited during the show-cause period," she said.

Registration for the Spring 2009 will continue until Saturday Jan. 17. Applications for admissions will be accepted until the last day of registration.

NMC also noted that its recruitment team assisted about 25 people during the admissions workshop last Saturday.

The team also hosted an Information Session on Jan. 5. A total of 45 prospective students attended.

The team also assisted in organizing the Financial Aid Workshop, which was attended by about 300 participants.

Other information sessions held last November gathered 120 participants.

NMC has been on probation since February 2007 and was put on show-cause in February this year because, according to Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, the school did not address previous concerns.

POKER

From Page 1

"It's entirely possible that the members are made up of people connected to competing businesses in the CNMI. Of course, some of their recommendations may be beneficial to their own respective businesses, and that is understandable. I see that one of the signatories does not even live in the CNMI so we wonder what is the true agenda of this body."

Pacific Amusement operates High Roller I in Garapan and High Roller II in Koblerville. It also manages Bobby's Café along Middle Road.

Poker jobs

Emil De Belen, manager of Treasure Island, meanwhile, said he opposes the SEDC resolution because it would result in the loss of jobs not only for himself but 15 of his co-workers.

It was the same sentiment made by a 35-year-old operations manager of a poker establishment in Garapan, who agreed to speak on condition of anonymity. She said if the SEDC plan pushes through, she will be out of the job and she won't be able to send money to her family back home.

A 32-year-old poker attendant also worries about her job security, especially now since her mother and father are in bad health and she is paying for the college tuition of two of her nephews.

Taking money from the 'poor'

De Belen said it does not make sense outlawing companies like Hanon Investment Saipan, which own Treasure Islands, from operating poker machines, only to allow big hotels to run their own poker parlors.

De Belen, who has been working in the poker industry since 1996, said it would be like taking away money from the poor to give to the rich.

Treasure Island operates 29 poker machines at its 4,000-square-meter Garapan establishment.

Like De Belen, Trombetta and Gebhard also took exception on wordings in the SEDC resolution outlawing poker machines in the Commonwealth, while allowing poker activities in casinos.

"We don't see the logic in this at all. If the concern is the gambling and the effect on families, why would the people who are against poker promote casinos? Is it fair to permit a business activity, any business activity, to a select group of people? For example, would it be fair to allow hotels with 200 rooms or more to be the only businesses allowed to sell alcohol, excluding all of the other businesses in the CNMI? Silly, right? And patently unfair."

Addiction to vice

The two also questioned SEDC citing increasing poker addiction in the CNMI as the reason behind the move to phase them out.

"Saying that poker machines destroy families is not an accurate statement. Yes, it's true that compulsive gamblers will seek out a way to gamble and often their compulsion will harm their families. Whether it's poker, cockfights, village fiesta gambling, bingo, or a trip to the [Tinian] Dynasty, the compulsive gambler will always find a way to place a bet. We should help the compulsive gambler in the same way we help the alcoholic and drug addict and tax revenues derived from bars and gambling activities should fund this effort."

A hotel owner who operates four machines but who wishes to remain anonymous, meanwhile, said she feels for individuals and families "victimized" by the addiction to poker.

However, she opposes the SEDC resolution looking for the elimination of poker machines in the Commonwealth because it would lead to the closing of her business. She said the poker machines inside her small hotel are currently the ones sustaining her hotel.

Besides, she said it's not as if poker establishment owners and operators are pointing a gun to their customers' heads.

Trombetta and Gebhard said that, while the government is looking to eliminate poker machines, they should also look at outlawing alcohol altogether.

"There is no doubt that by far the activity that poses the greater harm to families in the CNMI is alcohol. We never hear a cry for relocating the bars to La Fiesta. I wonder why? When you look at the record, most crime in the CNMI is alcohol related, and this includes DUI, crimes of violence, and spousal abuse."

Magnet for crime?

They also don't believe that poker establishment are magnets for criminal activity.

"Pokers are rarely targets like mom-and-pop [stores] or residences are. Poker casinos are places where there is cash, like other businesses on Saipan like mini marts and banks. When an alcoholic needs a drink or a drug addict needs a fix, and they are determined to rob somebody to get money, they will take the easiest target, but they will get somebody in the end."

De Belen said it is also unfair for poker establishments to shut down after the government recently required them to make improvements in their operations to safeguard against robberies.

He said Treasure Island had to invest in a CCTV system costing $10,000 as well as hire two security guards for $5 an hour. He said his company has even gone over and beyond the required 10-hour security requirement as his guards look after Treasure Islands 24/7.

Bigger loss

Trombetta and Gebhard fears that if allowed to succeed, the resolution to outlaw poker machines in the CNMI, save for 200-room hotels, would lead to the closure of their establishments.

"We have run some numbers and have determined that we would have to lay off 45 people should we lose our business. Fifty percent of our staffing is local hire. It doesn't take an accountant to figure out that not only would the CNMI lose our license fees that we pay annually, but also our gross revenue tax, jackpot taxes, and corporate income tax."

They said like the other poker establishments in the CNMI, their closure would have a trickling negative effect on the local economy.

"Additionally the payroll of the 45 people would no longer be in circulation, and neither would the taxes paid by the employees. And let's not forget the rents that we pay for our facilities and operations. How could we meet our lease obligations if the businesses conducted in those premises were banned? Plus there is the considerable investment in capital equipment, leasehold improvements, spare parts and the like. We would end up with a huge writeoff which would negate any tax revenues from our company to the CNMI for many years to come. …Our company will survive because we are diversified, but we would be on a much smaller scale, of course."

There are a total of 791 poker machines in the CNMI—680 on Saipan, 52 on Tinian, and 59 on Rota. Poker establishments currently pay $12,000 per machine a year, which translates to about $9.5 million in earnings from poker licenses a year for the government.

DHS

From Page 1

will allow Chinese tourists—and possibly Russian tourists—to participate in group tourist travel to the CNMI and Guam, according to the *Pacific Daily News,* which quotes Jim Beighley, DFS Pacific division managing director. Beighley made the announcement yesterday morning on K57 radio. The implementation timeline would be approximately 12 to 18 months.

The officials in the second visiting group, including David Gulick of U.S. Customs and Border Protection; Walter Haith, Guam field office director for the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services; and Marie Sebrechts, the regional media director for DHS from California, will meet with community members in order to build working relationships.

Other officials include Richard F. Vigna, director of Field Operations, San Francisco, for U.S. Customs and Border Protection; Bruce Murley, Port Director for the area port of Honolulu, including the Hawaiian islands and Guam; and Amy Newman, Attorney Advisor for Immigration in the Office of the General Counsel of the DHS.

Both groups arrive on island tomorrow morning and will begin their visit by meeting with representatives from the business community at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce. Those in attendance will include officials from the Marianas Visitors Authority, Marianas Immigration Task Force, officers of the Chamber, the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands and the Strategic Economic Development Council.

On Friday the DHS officials will meet with members of the Legislature in the morning, before conducting a public meeting at 2pm at the Multi-Purpose Center.

SIEMER

From Page 3

CNMI laws or the rules of the court.

Siemer denied that the Commonwealth Employment Act of 2007 provides that Labor is responsible for collection of awards made in the administrative orders that Labor issues in cases filed by alien workers against employers.

Siemer denied that the Nonresident Workers Act and its predecessors have any force and effect as they were repealed by the Commonwealth Employment Act of 2007.

She also denied that the Commonwealth Employment Act of 2007 requires Labor to issue any notice of claim to any bonding company.

Under the Commonwealth Employment Act of 2007, the special counsel said, Labor has no power to act against bonding companies.

Licensing and regulatory authority, she pointed out, is vested in the Department of Commerce.

Since Jan. 1, 2008, Siemer said, Labor has operated under the Commonwealth Employment Act of 2007.

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman set a status conference on the lawsuit for Jan. 29 at 1:30pm.

PERMITS

From Page 1

to transfer to other employers should register with the Labor Division of Employment Services no later than Feb. 7, 2009.

Each worker, he said, shall have 30 days from the date of registration to find a transfer employer and submit a signed employment intent form to Labor's Employment Services.

If any worker fails to file an employer intent form within the 30-day transfer period, that worker shall be required to report to Labor Enforcement Section's Jeff Camacho within five days in order to arrange for his or her repatriation.

"In such event, any refusal or failure by the worker to depart from the Commonwealth shall result in the worker's name being forwarded to the Office of the Attorney General for deportation," Cody said.

If an employee requests repatriation or the repatriation is arranged following the worker's failure to submit an employer intent form within the 30-day period, Uno Moda shall be notified and must provide a repatriation ticket within 15 days.

The employee, Cody said, must depart the CNMI within 15 days after the repatriation ticket is delivered to Labor or the matter will be referred to the CNMI Division of Immigration.

Uno Moda last month informed Labor that it has 228 alien workers and 55 resident workers or for a total of 283 employees.

Uno Moda Corp. general manager Won Gun Bak recently notified Labor Secretary Gil M. San Nicolas that their factory is closing down on Jan. 31, but that they had already informed their workers last Nov. 29 about the management's decision.

Bak said airline tickets for the workers' repatriation will be provided while those workers who want to transfer to other employers will be aided in the processing of documents.

"It is very difficult to continue our operations since our buyers moved to another place and our orders ceased and it affected our productions," said Bak in his letter to San Nicolas.

Two other remaining garment factories—US CNMI Development Corp. and Marianas Garment Manufacturing—had already notified Labor about their intention to close their factories, too. Both are officially shutting down on Feb. 7, 2009.

US CNMI Development Corp. general manager William Fong and MGM deputy general manager Zeng Gengzin said the factories ceased active garment manufacturing last Dec. 8, but they are officially closing on Feb. 7.

In their separate but similar letters to Labor, Fong and Gengzin said the corporations will continue to exist and that it is anticipated that they will keep their import and export licenses active.

All their workers, they said, were already given written notice about the closure.

The CNMI used to have 34 garment factories, all located on Saipan, contributing some $60 million in direct taxes a year to the local government.

Many of those factories started ceasing operations in January 2005 when the World Trade Organization lifted trade quotas.

Mayor's Office may allow cockpit in other areas

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

The Saipan Mayor's Office may allow the establishment of cockfighting arenas in other areas on Saipan but it cannot issue a permit to another operator.

This is because the law can only allow a single operator for any form of gambling on Saipan, Mayor Juan B. Tudela said.

For instance, he said that only one Bingo operator is allowed; the same holds true for Batu.

Batu is a traditional sport on Saipan that has become a form of gambling for some people.

Reacting to a suggestion by Taotao Tano CNMI Inc. president Greg Cruz that Tudela consult with the Department of Public Lands to designate a public land area for such an arena, the mayor said he is not in a position to designate such a place.

He said that issue is another agency's responsibility.

He also said it is not the duty of his office to monitor cockfight operations.

Cruz said that Tudela continues to complain about illegal cockfighting incidents in the community but has not done much to truly rectify the problem.

Tudela said his only task is to appoint board members and it is the responsibility of the licensed cockfight operator to go against those operating illegally.

Tudela explained that the recent discovery of such illegal activities was reported to him and he said he has not even seen the video footages.

He said he was just ascertaining the reports of the presence of those illegal cockfighting activities.

Tudela also reiterated that he would not disclose the names of government officials who were seen joining those activities.

Cruz, in a letter to Tudela, said he believes that the individuals who continue to illegally engage in such activities will be more than happy to assist in the construction and the making of rules and regulations to prevent these illegal activities within the community.

"We do not condone such illegal cockfighting in our community but we offer solutions preventing continued illegal activities," Cruz wrote.

He said revenues could be generated to benefit both the government and the taxpayers.

New non-profit group seeks to address local health issues

The Family Wellness Organization or Hinemlo' Familia is a newly formed non-profit corporation whose purpose is to educate, train, and perform medical and scientific research for community members who are willing to work with families and schools.

The members of Hinemlo' Familia come from numerous disciplines, medical, academic, educational, and business, united with the intention of improving health in the CNMI.

The members are composed of chair Joseph C. Santos, Dr. Daniel Lamar, Jackie A. Quitugua, Chailang T. Palacios, Nhing Reyes, and Frances T. Demapan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The members of the Family Wellness Organization or Hinemlo' Familia. They are Joseph C. Santos, Dr. Daniel Lamar, Jackie A. Quitugua, Chailang T. Palacios, Nhing Reyes, and Frances T. Demapan.

"The central mission of Hinemlo' Familia is to advocate prevention, intervention, and promote wellness, for one and all, in their lives, work and play. Its core beliefs, attitudes, and behaviors consider the environment as a major driving force in our daily lives. These behaviors begin within individuals, families, schools, then the wider community. Hinemlo' Familia's goal is to partner with other organizations within the CNMI to reduce chronic health issues and to offer viable alternatives for their relief," Santos said.

"As a team committed to being a 'voice' for our children, it is our hope that we can bring meaningful conversations concerning prevention and intervention in childhood obesity, health, well-being of families, training for schools, and further academic research on persistent health problems in the CNMI. The thrust of Hinemlo' Familia is to increase the quality of life of our people," trustee member Quitugua added.

The group said that, as the CNMI continues to grow and encounter challenges, everyone could be part of the solution to the barriers.

The data from the Department of Public Health, Public School System, families and community mirrors the immediate needs of children and adults alike. ***(PR)***

Two batches of students to take part in Japan exchange programs

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Two batches of junior high school students on Saipan will be going on a trip to Japan next month for an educational exchange program, the Office of Mayor Juan B. Tudela announced yesterday.

Interested students may inquire about these trips at the Mayor's Office. The deadline for application is tomorrow, Jan. 15.

The first trip, Feb. 1 - 5, will be under the the Novo-Ribetsu program. It will be composed of eight students and two chaperones. The students should come from Hopwood, Saipan Southern and ChaCha Oceanview.

However, if no students from these schools apply, students from other schools on Saipan could replace them.

Four students have already confirmed to join this trip, which will be the second year of the program.

The second trip is called the Sanpo-ren, to be held in Nagoya on Feb. 9-15.

The Mayor's Office said it is looking to send 16 students and four chaperones, who will come from different junior high schools.

The deadline of submission of applications is also on Jan. 15.

Just last month, students from Japan participated in a two-week long educational exchange program on Saipan.

The Japanese high school students, who came from different schools in Tokyo, lived with local foster parents during their stay here.

There were seven students and one chaperone that visited the island from Dec. 25 to 31.

The students enjoyed Chamorro entertainment, learned a lot about the islands' history and its tourist sites, and experienced the local culture and its people.

Tudela said some of students cried as they were about to leave and begged to be allowed to stay longer.

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Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Department of Public Health
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WIC

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The CNMI WIC Program is inviting all bakeries to create a 100% Whole Wheat Bread (1 lb. loaf) for the New WIC Food Package beginning October 1, 2009. We estimate that approximately 2000-3000 loaves will be sold to WIC participants per month.

Should your company wish to have its 100% whole wheat bread approved by the WIC Program please submit the Ingredients List and Nutrition Facts Label by fax or E-mail to (670) 664-4069 or fabianu@cnmiwic.org on or before January 31, 2009.

Please call Fabian Ulloa at (670) 664-4067 should you have any questions.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Owner of IMC sued for non-payment of rent, leaving premises in bad shape

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A company that rents out commercial space has sued the owner of the Island Medical Center for allegedly failing to pay rent for its leased space in Susupe and for leaving the premises in bad condition.

Golden Bird Corp. asked the Superior Court to order the Micronesian Health Corp., owner of Island Medical Center, to pay $76,658.54 on the promissory note and initial lease, plus accrued interest, and collection expenses, including attorney's fees and court costs.

Golden Bird also demanded payment of $16,500 plus $325 for power, $300 for bank charges, and $324.74 for fuel charges on the lease and leased premises.

Golden Bird lawyer Richard W. Pierce stated in the complaint that prior to July 1, 2006, Micronesian Health leased space from Golden Bird in Susupe for the Island Medical Center.

The lawyer said Micronesian Health defaulted on the lease and fell behind in its payments.

In order to induce Golden Bird to continue to lease the commercial space to Micronesian Health, to forego collection efforts on the unpaid rent and to honor its promise to pay rent, Micronesian Health executed a promissory note, Pierce said.

In the note, Micronesian Health vice president Anthony Glad acknowledged liability in the amount of $76,658.54, with interest of 12 percent per annum.

Despite demand, Pierce said, Micronesian Health failed to honor its commitment to Golden Bird and has refused to pay the debt.

"The amount due and owing Golden Bird under the promissory note and unpaid rent for the period prior to July 1, 2006, is $75,658.54 plus interest accrued and accruing on the unpaid balance at 12 percent per annum," the lawyer stated.

In the initial lease and in the promissory note, Pierce said, Micronesian Health promised to pay Golden Bird expenses related to collection charges, including attorney fees and costs, incurred by the plaintiff collecting the debt.

Pierce said that, by a written lease agreement effective July 1, 2006, Micronesian Health rented from Golden Bird its commercial space in Susupe for the Island Medical Center.

The term of the lease was five years, with rent payable on the 15th of each month in the amount of $5,000 and reduced to $3,000 per month effective January 2008.

From 2007 onward, Pierce said, Micronesian Health defaulted with its obligations under the lease.

He alleged that the defendant fell behind in its rental payments for the leased premises, despite its repeated promises to pay and the presentation of checks that were subsequently dishonored by the bank.

"Upon receiving a second, written demand for payment of the rent and other items or possession of the leased premises, Micronesian Health vacated the premises on or about the first full week of November 2008," Pierce said.

Contrary to its obligation to Golden Bird, Micronesian Health left the leased premises "in poor, physical condition," he said.

"Because of Micronesian Health's default under the provisions of the lease, Golden Bird has incurred expenses and continues to suffer damages in the amount of lost rent from the leased premises and preparation of the premises for rent," he added.

The Island Medical Center was closed down by the Department of Public Health in March 2008 due to alleged noncompliance with rules and regulations.

According to DPH's suspension order, Island Medical Center has a history of "unlawful pattern of practice by issuing health certificates either without blood screening tests or on the basis of false, forged and or altered lab test documentary results."

Joyner lauded for participating in military buildup discussions

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The assistant secretary of the Navy has commended Coastal Resources Management director John Joyner for his support in discussions related to the military buildup in the CNMI and Guam.

"For outstanding ongoing support and dedication to the partnership between the Department of Defense (DoD), Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Coastal Resources Management, and other federal and local environmental regulatory agencies," the letter of appreciation states. "Dr. Joyner has served as the primary point of contact for DoD in working with both regulatory agencies and leaders throughout the CNMI and has provided countless hours of support to environmental planning efforts in the region."

Joyner

Joyner said he is ecstatic to receive the appreciation, because it shows the CNMI has been a part of the discussions from the beginning. Although the Commonwealth 's involvement might not get a lot of fanfare, the letter proves leaders have taken an active role, he said.

BJ Penn, the assistant secretary of the Navy, commended Joyner for his regular participation in quarterly Joint Guam Program Office/Marianas Islands Range Complex Partnering Sessions.

"Dr. Joyner was instrumental in the planning of the 5th JGPO/MIRC Partnering Session held in Saipan in July 2007," the letter stated. "Dr. Joyner and his staff flawlessly executed all logistics, including a guided tour of the cultural and natural resources on the island of Tinian."

Discussions are underway to have the next partnering session on Tinian in February.

The military buildup involves the transfer of some 8,000 Marines and their dependents from Okinawa to Guam. The program involves using Tinian-and possibly Pagan and other parts of the CNMI's northern islands-as a military training site. Tinian will be home to a base where the Marines will stay while they undergo training.

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Sablan says four-day workweek not a solution

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Sablan

Surprised to learn about the four-day workweek being proposed for the Legislature, Rep. Tina Sablan said she is totally against it because it won't work at all.

Sablan was one of the guests at yesterday's session of the Rotary Club at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

"Obviously the entire government should be looking at ways to cut costs, and the governor has for months now been calling for the revival of austerity Fridays, or the four-day workweek that has been put on the table," Sablan said.

She said members of the House have objected to it.

"We tried it before it was never fairly implemented and there were always exceptions. What we have to resort to instead is to make cuts," Sablan said.

She is amenable to a reduction in manpower. "Let people go if we have to, and I think we should do it at this point."

Sablan said that across-the-board salary cuts didn't work in the past either.

She said she is not sure how far the plan will go in the Legislature.

As for a reduction in the budget instead, she said there are other ways to cut but they must do it in a way that is fair.

OGA initiative

Sablan said they have collected enough signatures for the Open Government Act initiative to be put on the ballot but it will have to go through another review and certification assessment by the Attorney General's Office in June.

She said the intent is to apply the OGA to the Legislature and require public notice for all sessions and committee meetings so that community members can participate if they like to. The initiative also aims to provide access to public records in the Legislature.

"The public has access to the records of the Legislative Bureau but this is just to expand that access to the community," she said.

Sablan said there has been a small but noticeable shift in the Legislature and that has been toward more openness.

"[Lawmakers are] soliciting more comments and having more public forums, so this is one more positive thing that is happening in the government," she said.

She said there is more room for improvement and that applying the OGA to the Legislature is just one of them.

Volunteerism

Meanwhile, Sablan told Rotarians about an e-mail from incoming first lady Michelle Obama about her campaign of volunteerism.

Sablan said it is a great and positive way to start the year—"thinking about all the opportunities for volunteerism in the community that we have now, we have all kinds of community events and projects that we could be involved in, this could lead to great things."

She said that, as difficult as times have been on the island these past years, there's still a lot to be thankful for.

Tun Goru Snack Bar opens on Capital Hill

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Tun Goru Snack Bar held its grand opening yesterday with proprietress and manager Carmen T. Cabrera offering free local delicacies such as *titiyas* and *apigigi* to well-wishers and passersbys.

Located on the old Escos Bakery building in Capital Hill, Cabrera said Tun Goru Snack Bar is named after her father, the late Gregorio "Tun Goru" C. Cabrera, and has been in operation since Dec. 23 last year.

She only decided to hold the grand opening for the snack bar yesterday because Jan. 13 marks the wedding anniversary of her parents. Her mother, Escolastica Cabrera, attended the event yesterday along with several family members and friends.

Cabrera said she decided to open Tun Goru Snack Bar because the island community has been "clamoring for local sweets and delicacies since Escos Bakery closed in 2007."

She said aside from local residents, Tun Goru Snack Bar also will cater to tourists and Chamorros and Carolinians from Tinian, Rota, and even Guam.

Cabrera said since they opened late last month, a number of tourists from China, Japan, and Korea have picked up some of their items to get a taste of what Saipan food has to offer.

Aside from *titiyas* and *apigigi*, Tun Goru Snack Bar also sells all-time favorites like *bibingka*, chicken *kelaguen*, empanada, *gazuria*, *man'ha* biscuit, *pan tuba*, *rosketti*, *tamales*, *potu*, and local versions of cookies and donuts.

Cabrera added that she also sells all types of sandwiches at the snack bar, which includes hamburgers, cheeseburgers, egg burger cheese, ham & egg, grilled cheese, and egg and tuna.

Soups in the menu, meanwhile, are corn soup, *charakilis*, *aruskatdo*, and miso soup. Cabrera said Tun Goru Snack Bar also serves breakfast, hot lunch, and soba during its operating hours, which are 7am-6pm Monday-Friday, 8am-6pm Saturday, and 9am-6pm Sunday.

In addition, customers can also call Tun Goru Snack Bar for special orders for Angel Cake, cheesecake, sponge cake, and *ahu lantiyas*.

For more information about Tun Goru Snack Bar or to place an order, call 322-4678.

Owner and manager Carmen T. Cabrera stands in front of the signage for Tun Goru Snack Bar on Capital Hill.

MARK RABAGO

Stay out of the water, EMO warns

The public is being warned to stay out of the water today as pounding surf will produce dangerous rip current at reefs and beaches—at least until tonight.

Large northwest swells generated by a cold front southeast of Japan is expected to bring hazardous surf to the Marianas through tonight, according to a special advisory issued yesterday by the CNMI Emergency Management Office.

The high surf advisory is now in effect until Wednesday night. High surf will affect exposed reefs and beaches, producing dangerous rip currents.

Yesterday's surf was 9-11 feet on north and west facing reefs, decreasing to 8-10 feet last night. Surf was expected to remain this high until this evening.

EMO is strongly advising the public—especially beachgoers, fishermen, tourists, swimmers, divers, and surfers—to avoid venturing near exposed reefs and beaches, especially those along north and west facing reefs as rip currents is life threatening. Rip current risk is high. ***(EMO)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

2 lawmakers to discuss budget on radio show

Today's *John Gonzales Live!* will feature Sen. Maria Frica Pangelinan, chairwoman of the Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee, and Rep. Ray N. Yumul, chairman of House Ways & Means Committee, to discuss the ongoing CNMI budget crisis. Tune in to KSPN Channel 2 during primetime from 7pm to 8pm, Wednesday, Jan. 14, with your comment and/or question via LIVE text-in (285-6382), call-in (287-4230), or email-in (johngonzales@pticom.com). ***(PR)***

MLK Day schedule

Jan. 10 Student essay ("What Would Martin Say?") finalist selection; Memorial Park Auditorium; 9am; email mlkcontest@welovesaipan.com;

Jan. 12 AACPC Members discuss MLK event/ significance/movement on Harry Blalock's radio show;

Jan. 13 MarshaRose Joyner arrives on Saipan, 8:50pm

Jan. 14 Workshops at schools on Rota;

Jan. 15 MarshaRose Joyner calls on Harry Blalock show; 7am;

Workshops at schools on Tinian;

Jan. 16 Workshops at schools on Saipan;

Jan. 19 Martin Luther King Day

Forum: 1pm - 2pm;

Mini-March: 3pm - 4pm;

Program includes essay/ speech finalists and keynote: 4pm - 6pm

Jan. 20 Workshops at schools on Saipan

Jan. 21 "Fulfilling the Dream" Inaugural Celebration Dinner; $15; Bud's Bar; 6pm until 8pm (proceeds to benefit AACPC educational and youth program activities.)

During off days, Ms. Joyner may be available to attend tours, gatherings and other events offered by the community. Contact blacksonsaipan@gmail.com to schedule. ***(PR)***

Attention to families with disabilities on Tinian, Rota

The Family Hope Center under the CNMI Council for Developmental Disabilities and Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc. would like to inform the community that the System Navigators would be traveling to Tinian and Rota to conduct interviews and follow up(s) with families with disabilities on the following dates:

Tinian Jan. 15-16, 2009

Rota Jan. 22-23, 2009

We are encouraging families with disabilities on Tinian and Rota to contact our offices at NMPASI, 234-7273/4 for Frances Torres or Dorian Camacho or CNMI DD Council for Lillian Ada at 664-7005/7000 or cell phone no. 287-5643 for an appointment. ***(PR)***

JGPO sets Guam village meetings

The Joint Guam Program Office will hold a second round of informational meetings in the villages of Mangilao, Yigo, Dededo and Agat to discuss the current status of the military realignment.

During each meeting, JGPO staff will provide attendees with an overview of the realignment planning efforts, including topics such as land use and the development of the Environmental Impact Statement. Attendees will also have the opportunity to ask questions to the panel, or to DoD representatives one-on-one after the meeting. The meetings, which will each run from 6:30pm to 8:30pm, will be held on the following dates:

Jan. 15 – Mangilao – Mangilao Senior Center

Jan. 20 – Yigo – Yigo Gymnasium

Jan. 21 – Dededo – Dededo Senior Center

Jan. 22 – Agat – Agat Community Center

For more information contact Capt. Neil Ruggiero at 333-2306. ***(PR)***

Kagman community meeting set

The Kagman Komunidat Association is inviting the public to meet at the Kagman Community Center on Thursday, Jan. 15, 2009, at 6:30pm. Issues to be discussed include the Kagman sidewalk construction, Puengin Inetnon (Kagman Friday Night Market), future and current CIP projects for Kagman (CIP coordinator Vicky Villagomez will be present), and other current community issues. Reps. Rosemond Santos and Ed Salas will also be present to discuss issues. ***(PR)***

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP09-CHC-003

SUBMISSION: FEBRUARY 27, 2009 TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"HEMODIALYSIS AND PERITONEAL DIALYSIS DISPOSABLE/CONSUMABLE SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTH CENTER"

THE RFP PACKAGE MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWERBASE DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP ARE DUE ON **JANUARY 30, 2009, CLOSE OF BUSINESS** AND MUST BE ADDRESSED TO MR. JOSE A. ICHIHARA, MEDICAL SUPPLY OFFICER AT (670) 322-8980 OR FAXED TO (670) 322-8987. **A PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE** WILL BE HELD ON **FEBRUARY 04, 2009 AT 10:00 A.M.** AT THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTH CENTER CONFERENCE ROOM.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE PROPOSAL IF PREFERENCED IS CLAIMED.

/s/ JOSEPH K.P. VILLAGOMEZ
SECRETARY OF HEALTH

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

UNITED STATES
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
COUNCIL on DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
Developmental Disabilities Basic State Grant Program
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Tel.: (670) 664-7000 • Fax: (670) 664-7030
Website: www.cnmicdd.org

CALL FOR SPECIAL MEETING

Attention General Public:

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 12, the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities under Chairperson Marissa Guerrero is herby calling for a Special Meeting to take place on January 16, 2009 at 1:00 pm at DD Council. . The meeting is called upon based on the Council on Developmental Disabilities Bylaws (dated January 31, 2003)

AGENDA

I. Welcoming Remarks

II. Roll Call

III. Establishment of Quorum

IV. Introduction of new Council Board Members

V. Date for Council Board Member Training

VI. Executive Session

VII. Adjournment

In accordance to the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend this meeting and require special accommodations are requested to call the Council 3 days in advance at 664-7000. The public is welcome to submit written or oral comments regarding the agenda above.

/s/ Marissa Guerrero, Chairperson

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM
PO BOX 501370
SAIPAN, MP 96950

Head Start Policy Council
Agenda

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Head Start Policy Council hereby gives notice that it will have a meeting on January 19, 2009 (Monday) from 11:30 am – 3:30 pm at the Fresko Cabin, Palms Resort, San Roque, Saipan.

I. Preliminary Matters
1. Roll Call
2. Quorum
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of Minutes
   a. December 9, 2008

II. Monthly Program Report
1. Director
2. Managers

III. Monthly Financial Status Report

IV. Standing Committee
1. Personnel
2. Education
   a. Child Outcomes Analysis
3. Executive
4. Finance
5. Public Relations

V. Old Business

VI. New Business
1. Action Item
   a. Approval: Community Assessment

VII. Next Meeting

VIII. Adjournment

Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)7, the Council may vote to meet in Executive Session.

This meeting is open to the public, interested individuals are welcomed to attend. Any person(s) requiring special accommodations may contact Ms. Candace Quitugua at 664-3751.

Mr. Vinnie Sablan
Chairperson

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

JANUARY 14, 1999

Chamber hopes Cohen will acknowledge CNMI reforms

Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Kerry McKinney yesterday said she is hopeful that President Bill Clinton's special representative to the 902 consultations will keep an open mind and recognize the reforms carried out by the CNMI government to eliminate labor abuses. Edward B. Cohen, the U.S. President's representative, will be arriving here on January 18 to discuss transition to federalization of local and minimum wage. The CNMI government panel, however, wants to tackle a different agenda which include immigration, minimum wage and customs associated with the local garment industry, economic assistance, waiver of matching requirement for Covenant funds, sovereignty over submerged lands, military land use, 200-mile economic zone, and non-voting delegate status in the U.S. Congress.

Travel expenses relatively lower, say PSS officials

The Public School System defended the nearly half-a-million dollars it spent on travel last year, saying it was sharply lower than in previous years. In 1995, PSS spent more than $1 million in federally funded trips alone. Last year's travel spending was at least 15 percent lesser than in 1997, according to acting Fiscal and Budget Officer William Matson. "We've been frugal in our travels and very responsible. Ever since I became chairman, I was very strict with travels," said Board of Education Chairman Marja Lee Taitano. She said off-island trips are important: they bring teachers to the CNMI, send managers and principals to training and connect the islands to the outside world.

JANUARY 14, 2000

80-MW power project junked

Nearly three years after spending at least half-a-million dollars, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. yesterday abandoned the initial plan on the Saipan power project, citing continuous economic difficulties that have sent the island's electricity load growth falling. In a decision met with angry protests, CUC's board of directors voted to cancel the request for proposals for the 80-megawatt plant that was issued in 1997 to pave the way for another round of bidding—this time for a 60MW generator recommended by its power consultants. The decision invalidated the offers submitted by 13 companies, including Enron which emerged on top in the last round of evaluation conducted last year by Burns & McDonnell, the private engineering firm hired by CUC amid mounting protests on its earlier choice of Marubeni-Sithe.

More questions than answers

It was the moment of truth. And as expected, most of those in the audience did not like what they heard. But board members of the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, while not all of them, voted on the most crucial decision on a project that has come under a storm of protests since its procurement began almost three years ago. Dozens of lawmakers, representatives of bidders and laymen attended yesterday's board meeting which decided the fate of Saipan's 80-megawatt plant, most of them leaving the conference room aghast—to say the least. The discussion ended with more questions than answers on the controversial power project, which has attracted close scrutiny and aggressive lobbying by some of the bidders.

JANUARY 14, 2002

Tic-toc, tic-toc, the timer's starting up

The clock starts ticking today as Governor-elect Juan Babauta and Lt. Governor-elect Diego Benavente take over the unenviable task of turning the moribund economy of the Commonwealth around. Both Babauta and Benavente have promised to hit the ground running. Yet even in the run-up to today's inauguration ceremony, the squeeze is already on, as the new administration will be coming into its own with a government operating on a continuing resolution. Saddled with unpaid debts and a widening deficit that threaten to hobble any attempts to get the economy off the ground, the general consensus is that it will be the economy that will make or break this incoming Republican administration.

BIRTHDAY SHOUT-OUT

Oiii Este Maagaayyy! Birthday greetings go out to our favorite *bisinu* Varyssa Borja, who is celebrating her 8th birthday today. May God bless you on your special day! Have fun and be safe. We love you! From Auntie Bon & HOMETEAM!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Birthday greetings go out to Ms. Tita Gabredo, who is celebrating her birthday today! Greetings come from your all your family and friends, and most especially from your MHS Dolphin family. Have a great day!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Kilili gets Education & Labor committee assignment

WASHINGTON, D.C.— The leadership of the U.S. House of Representatives has appointed Northern Marianas Rep. Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan (I-MP) to the House Committee on Education and Labor.

The committee handles Head Start, No Child Left Behind, school lunch programs, anti-poverty programs, and other federal education programs that are important to the Northern Marianas.

"Improving educational opportunities is one of the top priorities for the people of the Marianas," said Sablan. "As a voting member of the Education and Labor Committee, I will be able to help our Public School System, the [Northern Marianas] College and other educators on our islands to achieve that goal."

The committee also has jurisdiction over minimum wage and job training programs. Sablan's appointment gives the NMI a strong voice on federal policies most important to the economic development of the Commonwealth.

Rep. George Miller (D-CA) is chairman of the committee.

"Mr. Miller is a leading advocate in Congress for children and workers," according to Sablan. "I am looking forward to working with him to make life better for everyone in the Northern Marianas and fulfill the Covenant's promise of making the Marianas truly a part of the American economic and political family."

Education and Labor is Sablan's second committee appointment. The Northern Marianas congressman is also now a member of the Natural Resources Committee. ***(PR)***

EPA solicits Environmental Award nominees

Opportunity to recognize environmental champions

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is encouraging citizens in California, Arizona, Nevada, Hawaii, and the Pacific Islands to nominate a friend, peer or organization for this year's U.S. EPA Environmental Awards program.

Nominations can be submitted online beginning Jan. 7 and ending Feb. 8.

The program seeks to recognize individuals and groups outside of the U.S. EPA who made significant contributions to improve the environment in the year 2008. Anyone can be nominated, such as scientists, teachers, journalists, citizen activists, young people, organizations, business representatives, public officials and others committed to protecting public health and preserving our natural surroundings.

Entries will be judged on the following criteria:

- promotion of innovative ideas, techniques, and/or technologies
- ability to address an environmental problem or need
- accomplishment of stated goals
- ability of the program/activity to be replicated or widely shared
- collaboration with others
- clarity and effectiveness of the presentation
- long-term benefits for the environment

The deadline to submit nominations online is Feb. 8. An EPA panel will review all of the applications and select this year's winners, who will be notified by mid-March. Winners will then be recognized at a ceremony to be held in San Francisco mid-April.

For more information and to submit a nomination online, visit: http://www.epa.gov/region09/awards. For questions regarding the program, call the Environmental Information Center toll-free at (866) EPA-WEST or Wendy Chavez at (415) 947-4248. ***(EPA)***

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Registration for Spring classes is taking place from January 12 to January 17, 2009. Applications for admission will be accepted until the last day of registration on January 17. For more information, please contact the Office of Admissions and Records at 234-5498 Ext 1537, or email oar@nmcnet.edu, or visit www.nmcnet.edu.

SHIPPING SCHEDULE

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STADT HAMBURG	028E	1/10 Sat	1/8 Thu	1/8 Thu	1/6 Tue	1/3 Sat	1/16 Fri	1/12 Mon	1/11 Sun	1/4 Sun	1/4 Sun	1/12 Mon	1/16 Fri	1/18 Sun	1/20 Tue
MELL SENOKO	016E	1/17 Sat	1/15 Thu	1/15 Thu	1/13 Tue	1/10 Sat	1/23 Fri	1/19 Mon	1/18 Sun	1/11 Sun	1/11 Sun	1/19 Mon	1/23 Fri	1/25 Sun	1/27 Tue
MELL SENTOSA	015E	1/24 Sat	1/22 Thu	1/22 Thu	1/20 Tue	1/17 Sat	1/30 Fri	1/26 Mon	1/25 Sun	1/18 Sun	1/18 Sun	1/26 Mon	1/30 Fri	2/1 Sun	2/3 Tue
STADT HAMBURG	029E	1/31 Sat	1/29 Thu	1/29 Thu	1/27 Tue	1/24 Sat	2/6 Fri	2/2 Mon	2/1 Sun	1/25 Sun	1/25 Sun	2/2 Mon	2/6 Fri	2/8 Sun	2/10 Tue
MELL SENOKO	017E	2/7 Sat	2/5 Thu	2/5 Thu	2/3 Tue	1/31 Sat	2/13 Fri	2/9 Mon	2/8 Sun	2/1 Sun	2/1 Sun	2/9 Mon	2/13 Fri	2/15 Sun	2/17 Tue

Inbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETA Guam	ETD Guam	ETA Saipan	ETA Yap	ETA Koror	ETA GenSan	ETA Davao	ETA Cebu	ETA Hongkong	ETA Kaoshiung	ETA Busan	ETA Yokohama	ETA Manila	ETA Singapore
MELL SENTOSA	014E	1/17 Sat	1/18 Sun	1/18 Sun	1/20 Tue	1/22 Thu	1/24 Sat	1/25 Sun	1/27 Tue	1/30 Fri	1/31 Sat	2/5 Thu	2/24 Tue	2/22 Sun	2/4 Wed
STADT HAMBURG	028E	1/24 Sat	1/25 Sun	1/25 Sun	SKIP	1/29 Thu	1/31 Sat	2/1 Sun	2/3 Tue	2/6 Fri	2/7 Sat	2/12 Thu	3/3 Tue	3/1 Sun	2/11 Wed
MELL SENOKO	016E	1/31 Sat	2/1 Sun	2/1 Sun	2/3 Tue	2/5 Thu	2/7 Sat	2/8 Sun	2/10 Tue	2/13 Fri	2/14 Sat	2/19 Thu	3/10 Tue	3/8 Sun	2/18 Wed
MELL SENTOSA	015E	2/7 Sat	2/8 Sun	2/8 Sun	SKIP	2/12 Thu	2/14 Sat	2/15 Sun	2/17 Tue	2/20 Fri	2/21 Sat	2/26 Thu	3/17 Tue	3/15 Sun	2/25 Wed
STADT HAMBURG	029E	2/14 Sat	2/15 Sun	2/15 Sun	2/17 Tue	2/19 Thu	2/22 Sun	2/23 Mon	2/25 Wed	2/27 Fri	2/28 Sat	3/5 Thu	3/24 Tue	3/22 Sun	3/4 Wed
MELL SENOKO	017E	2/21 Sat	2/22 Sun	2/22 Sun	2/24 Tue	2/26 Thu	2/28 Sat	3/1 Sun	2/17 Tue	3/6 Fri	3/7 Sat	3/12 Thu	3/31 Tue	3/29 Sun	3/11 Wed

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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EDITORIAL

'La migra's' bigger boot

The Bush administration strikes again. The latest in its series of last-minute policy changes comes from the Department of Justice. In a ruling issued Wednesday, Attorney General Michael B. Mukasey wiped out decades of court opinions and Board of Immigration Appeals practice, determining that noncitizens do not have a constitutional right to challenge their deportation based on incompetent legal representation. In practical terms, this means that if an attorney does not show up for an important hearing, fails to file crucial briefs, does not call relevant witnesses or advise his client that he or she is due in court—any of which can lead to a judgment for deportation—that's just too bad.

Only criminals are guaranteed the right to an attorney by the Sixth Amendment, Mukasey noted, and removal hearings are civil procedures. Therefore, as privately retained attorneys are not agents of the state, the government is not obliged to consider a deficient performance as grounds for reopening a deportation proceeding. He left room, however, for a judge's discretion if an attorney's work was so deficient that it clearly changed the outcome.

This is legal sophistry. Removal hearings are civil proceedings, but the potential severity of their consequences and the depth of government involvement make them far more similar to criminal proceedings than to lawsuits over money or small-claims skirmishes. Immigrants and asylum-seekers often are arrested and detained by the government before a hearing, and if deportation is ordered, they are subject to forcible removal by the government. Legal and illegal immigrants facing deportation stand to lose jobs and property and, worse, to be exiled from husbands, wives and children. Asylum-seekers who are deported to their home countries face persecution and torture, and U.S. citizens mistakenly ensnared in immigration dragnets—as occasionally happens—face the particular horror of banishment from their homeland. The Justice Department should be moving toward more legal protections, not less.

Mukasey's successor might be able to reverse this ruling, but the most prudent way to proceed is for Congress to step in. The Immigration Nationality Act says that people in removal proceedings have the "privilege" of being represented by counsel, and that was generally conceded to be a right. But since the Bush administration found that expediency trumps fairness, lawmakers should prevent any future administration from doing the same and firmly establish the right to open trials, legal counsel and due process for citizens and immigrants alike.

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'The Last Garment Factory is Closing!'

THE SAIPANPRENEUR PROJECT

Creating economic success for the CNMI

By WALT F.J. GOODRIDGE
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Send article suggestions, entrepreneur nominations and feedback about this article to walt@passionprofit.com.

The only way to take control of your life, raise your standard of living and move beyond merely surviving is to create your own unique product or service that you offer to increasing numbers of people in exchange for the things of value that you desire. This simple formula applies to countries as well as people. A self-sufficient economy has its own products or services of value to export to the world. Similarly, a self-sufficient individual has something of value to exchange in the global marketplace. That thing of value is based on your natural talent, skill, or interest—in other words, your passion!

The last garment factory is closing
Bid the SEWers forever goodbye
And this chapter will end
and we'll turn a new bend
as the end of an era draws nigh

The last garment factory is closing
Goes the bitter along with the sweet
Controversy and fraud?
Opportunity abroad?
Stories change with each person you meet

The last garment factory is closing
Some will say not a moment too soon
But from those who worked hard
daily seams and time cards
come the words of a whole different tune

The last garment factory is closing
Ask the girls what they thought of it all
Most will say they were glad
for the chance that they had
and are sad that things slowed to a crawl

The last garment factory is closing
Off to cheaper, more profit-filled climes
Shall we toast its demise?
Do we seek a reprise?
Or just strive now to make better times?

The last garment factory is closing
What on earth is our island to do?
Let our leaders contrive
a new plan to survive
so the nation can flourish anew!

The last garment factory is closing
Let us hope now the future is kind
Let the Saipan of past
be re-shaped and recast
in an image that let's us all shine!

Over the past several months, I've had the unique opportunity of transcribing and editing a unique story chronicling one young Chinese lady's journey as a garment factory worker here on Saipan. Beyond what I learned about the Chinese language, culture and worldview, it's a fascinating experience to hear and contrast what those who are actually working in factories have to say with what is typically reported in the media.

Many of the (predominantly Chinese) women I've interviewed, have expressed a fairly consistent opinion of life as garment factory workers: They appreciate the chance to earn more money here than they could in their home countries; they feel the resident population doesn't like them being here; but they would like to keep working here because of the money, and a certain freedom they have that is hard to find back home, that they've grown accustomed to, and that would actually make reintegrating into Chinese society more difficult.

The peaks and valleys of the 25 years of garment factory operations here on Saipan is a story well worth telling—from as many perspectives as possible. The industry's pivotal, and undeniable role and impact on Saipan's current reputation, brand identity, and image is worthy of analysis, as we strive to recreate that reputation and identity in the years ahead.

This has and continues to be a pivotal month of change. Over the span of just a few days we will have witnessed the declaration of the Mariana Trench Marine National Monument (Jan. 6), the closure of the last garment factory (Jan. 15), a final determination on the Guam-CNMI visa waiver program (Jan. 16), MLK Day (Jan. 19) made more poignant and timely given Barack Obama's game-changing inauguration (Jan. 20), all within the framework of a continuing economic crisis. Yes, change is in the air both here and abroad. Are you ready?

Today's "life rhyme" is a reminder that every change comes with different opinions and perspectives, impacts, and (at least) two sides to every issue that, if overlooked, lessen the lesson we can learn by incorporating everyone's viewpoint. *The Last Garment Factory is Closing* is a metaphor for life's periods of transition, for seeking out others' perspectives, and of moving forward armed with a renewed purpose to seek out new options, and make things better than they were before.

There is always opportunity amid change.

***Note**: There is actually one other factory that has officially suspended its operations until further notice, and may, in fact, be "the last man standing," some time after Jan 15. Stay tuned.*

***Note**: Visit www.saipanfactorygirl.com for more details on the book,* Chicken Feathers and Garlic Skin.

***Note**: For more tips on overcoming your fears, acting on your ideas, changing the game, and creating a passion-centered lifestyle, visit www.passionprofit.com!*

■ ■ ■

Until next week, remember, success is a journey, not a destination!

Walt F.J. Goodridge is author of 12 books including Turn Your Passion Into Profit. *Walt offers coaching and workshops to help people pursue and profit from their passions. Originally from the island of Jamaica, Walt has grown several successful businesses in the US, and now makes his home here in Saipan. To learn more about the Saipanpreneur Project and Walt's philosophy and formula visit www.saipanpreneur.com and www.passionprofit.com.*

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Discipline vs achievement

By STEPHEN B. SMITH
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Stephen B. Smith is the Accreditation, Language Arts, and National Forensic League coordinator for the Public School System Central Office.

Today's school environment is a mix of old and new thinking. Old: discipline must be certain, effective, and strict. New: no child must be left behind and schools must be held accountable if such is not the case. How to meld these two realities is the question. Schools are caught in a Catch-22.

Fact, a student who has been suspended or expelled is going to react to the severity of the discipline in very negative ways. Fact, the data does not support the notion that strictly enforced disciplinary procedures enhance school achievement; actually the data indicates quite the opposite (J.E. Davis & Jordan 1994; Raffaele-Mendez 2003; Skiba and Rausch 2006). In my experience, once a child has been effectively kicked out of school, either temporarily or permanently, it is difficult if not impossible to get him back into the fold in any real sense. All we have gained is his eternal animosity. Oh, we might get him to eventually behave, but we may never again get him to care. In such cases we all lose.

Children are not small adults; they are children and only that. Neurologically they are incapable of fully rational thought processing (Gardner and Steinberg, 2005). The brain is a developmental organ. Unlike the heart or the thumb, it is not what it is going to be until adulthood. A young person of, say 15, has a well developed amygdala (emotions) but the frontal lobe of the brain (reasoning) is far less developed at that age. Put another way, these are among the primary reasons that young people are not held as accountable for their actions as are adults

In order to maximize achievement in our schools, our young people must be brought along slowly and with great caution. The feelings, the egos, as well as the minds of the young need to be cultivated, not cut off from the very sources of guidance and support that is so clearly essential to their development as students and citizens.

A suspended student does not sit at home and say to himself, "Gee, I shouldn't have brought that betel nut to school; I'll never do it again." No, it is far more likely that he is going to be more determined than ever to dare the school to stop him again! A student who chronically misbehaves in class is doing so for a reason; disciplining him before understanding the "why" can only be counterproductive.

If it is the goal of our schools to educate and prepare our students to be competitive in the globalist world in which we live in. We absolutely must keep them in the classroom, not look to finding ways to exclude them so as to make our adult lives easier and less problematic.

It may be said that what I recommend here may be easier said than done, but such is not necessarily true. I have known very few students who, knowing they were respected and liked by the adults with whom they relate, act up intolerably or commit expellable acts. That then, in this writer's view, is the solution: make certain that every student is valued, and appreciated, and yes, even loved and most problems will disappear.

Finally, I add this codicil; there are some acts that are beyond the scope of the schools to deal with. Behaviors that are actual criminal acts are not part of the thinking here, e.g., weapons, extreme violence, the like, these must and ought to be handled by the justice system. But, failing to be so classified, all other infractions need to be carefully looked at before taking extreme disciplinary action.

Letter to the Editor

Misguided diatribe

About Enrique K. Seman's misguided diatribe, it's important to offer real answers over perceptual pontification of issues that have been taken out of context and presented as a set of facts.

Firstly, the Department of Public Lands doesn't acquire private land for any and all public purposes. The local government, through the Department of Public Works, does this. What's acquired by the DPW becomes government land, not public land. Sir, there's no connectivity between private land acquisition and the Department of Public Lands. Therefore, your accusation of DPL making a mistake is baseless and without foundation.

Secondly, it is vital to understand that policymaking, including what's constitutionally the sole authority of the House of Representatives to appropriate funds, can't be allowed to suffer willful pre-emption by the courts at will. This is wrong! Isn't it true that even the judiciary's budget goes through legislative review annually? Revisit your high school civic lessons and pertinent provisions of the NMI Constitution and be guided accordingly.

Thirdly, revisit pertinent NMI constitutional provisions establishing the Department of Public Lands or its predecessor agencies. It delineates how self-generated funds are spent in no uncertain terms. This isn't a creature of the current secretary of the DPL. The NMI Constitution and other statutory provisions mandate the conduct of business of the department.

It is a matter policy that when land claims go to court, I leave this issue strictly to my attorney to settle via appropriate court hearing. It would be courting redundancy to have the court review your case as you attempt to negotiate a settlement. Why bring it to court if you feel that a settlement is the better option? Redundancy, sir, is still not a forte of this public servant.

If you will, land compensation is not a fundamental policy of the DPL. Essentially, DPL is a facilitating administrative agency, if I may reiterate, not because it has "segregated" funds to dispose versus land claims, but in view of its resources to research and resolve land claims matters. Notice that DPL's segregated funds aren't subject to appropriation? How did you miss the boat on this issue?

In passing, get your facts straight so your presentation offers appropriate perspective premised on a set of real facts, not perceptual data. This approach makes for a healthy and educated discussion on issues of substance. Evidently, I found out over the entire course of my career (public and private) that I wasn't, isn't and will never be the general manager of the universe. This is the purview of fully honed fools like you recalcitrant to accepting what reality presents.

John S. DelRosario Jr.
Secretary, DPL

Afraid to correct govt's mistakes

My thoughts on our land dispute with the government: The government would not admit making a mistake. Rather, it would fight to the end to protect its integrity and keep immune its officials who blatantly ignored our pleas and official claim to the questioned property.

For over 50 years no government officials would do the right thing to bring this matter to a closure. Each one of the involved officials who we sought assistance from would rather procrastinate on resolving the issue or pass the buck to other government agency, department, or government official just to get out of the spotlight or hoping we will stop bothering them. No government official seemed interested in resolving our land dispute.

Perhaps none of the government officials likes us because either we are complaining against the government or we are of the minority indigenous race, i.e., Carolinian, so we are not important to them. I might be wrong with my assumption, but I believe the officials are mostly incompetent in their capacity to do the right thing and are afraid to jeopardize their government positions in that they are reluctant to do anything drastic that would hurt the government and put them in a tight position with their superiors. Basically, they are unable to morally correct the government's mistakes and afraid to go against the government.

I am writing to illustrate how our government can go to extremes to hide the obvious carelessness and mismanagement of some of the government officials involved in our land dispute with the government. This is something I would like to share with the public in hopes that maybe something can be learned from this problem so we can prevent this malady from happening again.

Enrique K. Seman
Administrator to Heirs of Rita Rogolifoi
Kagman, Saipan

Stop importing workers

Human trafficking is a horrible part of any nation, and I applaud anyone and everyone that takes the steps to stop it and assist in its halting. People are greedy and if you can make a buck and not get caught, people will do so sometimes without regard to the harm they cause others and the community around themselves. It's despicable. While I lived in the CNMI, I saw a boat captain loading close to half a dozen nicely dressed Chinese women aboard a fishing boat to go fishing. I immediately went over to the FBI office and told the FBI. They caught the boat, the captain and the ladies the next day less than 100 yards off the coast of Guam, and seized the boat. It was later returned to the owner as he had no part in the operation. I received nothing in return other than the thanks from the FBI—and I certainly did not expect anything. It was the right thing to do, so I did it.

The traffic intervention coalition has my applause for its efforts on the face of things. The surest way to lower the rate of human trafficking and rid the island of this crime is to stop importing guest workers. Tony Pellegrino's Trade Institute needs help, and I agree with his efforts. During my decade-long stay on the island, I was approached by a CNMI college professor who said he needed help in staffing for his marine courses. How so, I asked? He said he needed instructors in practical marine skills—in other words how to become a competent mariner. I accepted the challenge and taught four courses over four semesters to students. I received nothing other than the knowledge I was doing what was needed and right. More thinking like this is needed on island, but again, if the wages for mariners is too little to support a family in other than Third World-style, what is the point? The students will leave to find work off island. Restricting the import of guest workers and phasing them out of the work force is the only thing which will increase the pay scale.

Local offices that deal with the import/taxing/regulation are rife with opportunities for corruption and scandal, and have seen more than the fair share of such. Abuse of the office—and abuse of the workers—abound. Want to get rid of part of the corruption and abuse? Stopping the importation and hosting of guest workers will help cure this issue.

Here are three issues—human trafficking, low wages driving young citizens out and one part of the prevalent government corruption—that are a direct cause of the importation of guest workers. Note that the guest workers themselves are not the cause; they are not to blame—but the importation of them is.

William Mccue
Wellington, Florida

Beware of innovative burglars, thieves

Kindly publish this letter of forewarning to our community, especially the As Matuis Homestead, in hopes of preventing homes and families as the next victims of these innovative thieves who scan your house and burglarize your home without force or breaking entry or waiting until dark. Here's how they operate: They operate in groups of two or more and pretend to have a car breakdown so they can come to your home, knock on your door, ask to use your telephone, and then ask to drink water or use your restroom or need something else for whatever excuse they can come up with as part of their scam.

Two or more of these thieves make their way inside your home and pretend to wait for their friends while they use your phone, restroom or drink of water but they are actually scanning your home and, while one of them is busy distracting the home owner, the other noses around your home behind your back scanning your rooms for small items that are easy to hide and carry. These thieves got away with our hair straightener, blow dryer, a portable DVD player and a digital camera. These items are small enough for them to snatch and hide in their body without being noticed.

So, beware of these strangers and thieves when they come knocking at your door. Do *not* let them inside your home, no exception. These thieves can hit your home twice in an hour without even noticing something is gone until it's too late. We reported this incident to the police and hopefully they will find them, hold them to their criminal acts and return our items that belong to our family.

Ashton C. Camacho
As Matuis, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with a slight chance of light showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of light showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°

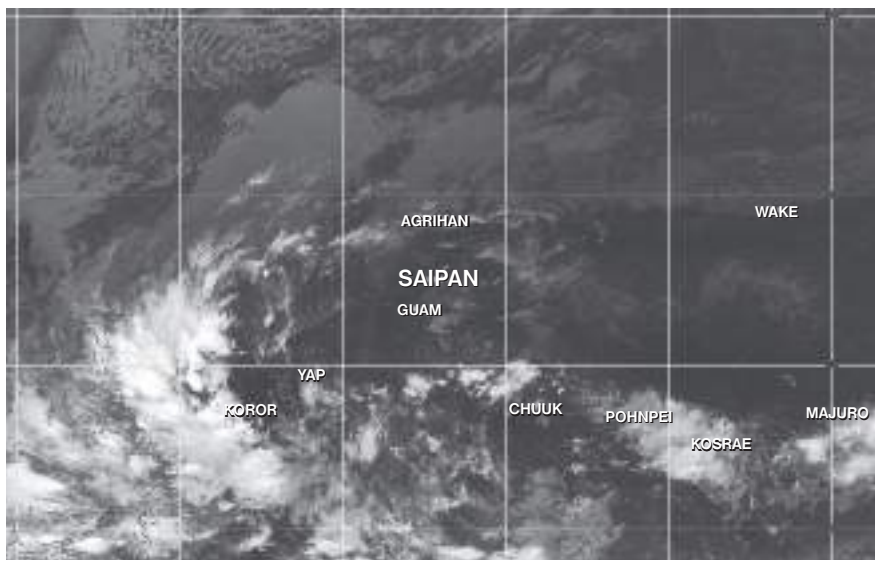
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Sunny	▲84	▼75
Palau	Cloudy	▲85	▼77
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼76
Chuuk	Showers	▲89	▼79
Pohnpei	Partly Sunny	▲87	▼78
Kosrae	Showers	▲85	▼79
Majuro	Rain	▲83	▼77

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲73	▼64
Beijing	Sunny	▲34	▼16
Hong Kong	Sunny	▲63	▼54
Honolulu	Partly Sunny	▲80	▼70
London	Partly Sunny	▲43	▼36
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲78	▼50
Manila	Showers	▲79	▼73
Melbourne	Hot	▲98	▼67
Miami	Partly Sunny	▲71	▼55
New York	Partly Sunny	▲26	▼17
Osaka	Rain/Snow	▲40	▼26
Paris	Showers	▲41	▼33
Pusan	Sunny	▲39	▼19
Rome	Showers	▲55	▼40
Salem	Sunny	▲50	▼29
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲64	▼46
Seoul	Sunny	▲30	▼14
Tokyo	Sunny	▲50	▼30
Washington, DC	Cloudy	▲34	▼27

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, JAN. 13, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front enters the discussion area at 23N180 and extends west-southwestward to near Wake Island at 19N165E then continues as a shear line through Pagan at 18N146E to beyond 130E at 12N. Cloudiness and patchy rain are found along and up to 250 miles north of this boundary. A near-equatorial trough extends eastward from south of Mindanao through two weak circulations centered south of Koror at 4N134E and south of Chuuk at 5N150E then turns southeastward to end at EQ156E. Aided by upper-level divergence, numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring in the vicinity of the circulation near Koror west of a line from 1N137E to 12N134E. Low-level convergence north of the trough axis is producing scattered showers south of Guam and north of Chuuk between 8N and 10N from 143E to 155E. Trade-wind convergence is triggering scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over Pohnpei, Kosrae and Mili Atoll within 170 miles of a line from 6N156E to 4N169E to 6N180.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

3:52AM Today	Low Tide:	0.5 Feet
10:42AM Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet
4:35PM Today	Low Tide:	0.9 Feet
9:34PM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:47AM	6:06 PM
Thursday	6:47AM	6:06 PM
Friday	6:47AM	6:07 PM
Saturday	6:47AM	6:07 PM
Sunday	6:47AM	6:08 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	9:17PM	9:07AM
Thursday	10:11PM	9:48AM
Friday	11:03PM	10:27AM
Saturday	11:35PM	11:05AM
Sunday		11:44AM

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- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

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- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
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- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 1, 2009

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota			
CO9597	11:50am	12:25pm	1,7
Saipan-Guam			
CO9317	5:00am	5:50am	Daily
CO9313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
CO9597	11:50am	1:20pm	1,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	2,3,4,5,6
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily
Saipan-Narita			
NW 099	5:00am	7:35am	Daily
NW 078	8:20am	1:30pm	2,3,4,5,6,7
NW 075	4:55pm	7:30pm	Daily
Guam-Narita			
NW 73	4:10pm	7:00pm	Daily
NW 81	3:55pm	6:55pm	Daily
Saipan-Osaka			
OZ 119	4:00am	6:40am	1,4,6
NW 083	4:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
Guam-Osaka			
NW 79	4:45pm	7:35pm	Daily
Saipan-Nagoya			
NW 078	8:20am	11:05am	Daily
Guam-Nagoya			
NW 23	4:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
Saipan-Incheon			
OZ 604	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:40am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 119	4:00am	11:25am	1,4,6 via Osaka
OZ 606	3:20pm	7:00pm	Daily
Saipan-Busan			
OZ 608	3:20am	6:50am	1,4,5,7
Saipan-Shanghai			
FM 844	2:50am	5:40am	2,6
Rota-Guam			
CO 9597	12:50pm	1:20pm	1,7
Guam-Palau			
CO 953	7:40pm	8:40pm	1,7
CO 893	5:50pm	6:50pm	3,5
Palau-Manila			
CO 893	7:35pm	9:10pm	3,5
Guam-Manila			
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	3,5 via Koror
CO 933	8:00pm	9:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:50am	1,2,4,6,7
Nagoya-Manila			
NW 71	8:40pm	11:55pm	Daily
Incheon-Hongkong			
OZ 721	9:20am	12:00pm	Daily
OZ 723	7:45pm	10:35pm	Daily
OZ 7173	8:00pm	10:50pm	5,7
Narita-Manila			
NW 1	7:00pm	10:55pm	Daily

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan			
CO 9598	3:25am	4:00am	5,6
Guam-Saipan			
CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	1,2,3,4,7
CO9598	2:30am	4:00am	5,6 via Rota
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9600	10:20am	11:10am	Daily
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily
Narita-Saipan			
NW 076	10:15am	2:40pm	Daily
NW 077	6:25pm	1:20am+1	2,3,4,5,6,7
NW 100	8:45pm	1:10am+1	Daily
Narita-Guam			
NW 74	9:45am	2:20pm	Daily
NW 82	10:30am	3:10pm	Daily
Osaka-Saipan			
OZ 120	9:50pm	2:20am+1	3,5,7
NW 084	10:40am	3:05pm	Daily
Osaka-Guam			
NW 80	10:30am	3:00pm	Daily
Nagoya-Saipan			
NW 077	9:00pm	1:20am+1	Daily
Nagoya-Guam			
NW 24	10:00am	2:30pm	Daily
Incheon-Saipan			
OZ 605	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ 120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	3,5,7 via Osaka
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6
Busan-Saipan			
OZ 607	9:00pm	2:10am+1	3,4,6,7
Shanghai-Saipan			
FM 843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1,5
Guam-Rota			
CO 9598	2:30am	3:00am	5,6
Palau-Guam			
CO 954	2:30am	5:25am	1,2
CO 892	2:35am	5:30am	4,6
Manila-Palau			
CO 892	10:10pm	1:50am+1	3,5
Manila-Guam			
CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	3,5 via Koror
CO 934	11:10pm	4:40am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:10pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7
Manila-Nagoya			
NW 72	6:30am	11:05am	Daily
Hongkong-Incheon			
OZ 724	12:30am	4:50am	Daily
OZ 7183	12:45am	5:05am	1,4,6
OZ 722	1:30pm	5:45pm	Daily
Manila-Narita			
NW 2	7:45am	12:40pm	Daily

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Business

Bush seeks final $350B in bailout funds at Obama's behest

WASHINGTON (AP)—Acting at Barack Obama's behest, President George W. Bush on Monday asked Congress for the final $350 billion in the financial bailout fund, effectively ceding economic reins to the president-elect in an extraordinary display of transition teamwork. Obama also sharply criticized Bush's handling of the money and promised radical changes.

Bush's move sets the stage for Obama to get swift access to the $350 billion and the opportunity to overhaul the much-criticized rescue package after taking office next Tuesday. Obama said that it would be "irresponsible ... to enter into the administration without any potential ammunition should there be some sort of emergency or weakening of the financial system."

Congress, where the use of the money has met stiff bipartisan skepticism, has 15 days to vote to reject the request. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., was considering holding a vote on a resolution of disapproval as early as Thursday in hopes it would be defeated, thus making the funds available about a week after Obama inherits one of the worst financial crises in U.S. history.

"It is clear that the financial system, although improved from where it was in September, is still frail," Obama said, a few hours after seeking Bush's help in requesting the money.

Several officials said the president-elect intends to visit the Capitol on Tuesday to attend a weekly closed-door meeting of Senate Democrats. The meetings often vary widely in topics to be discussed, although it seemed likely Obama would make the case for the bailout funds if the subject came up.

Separately, a Republican official said Obama was dispatching top aides to meet with the Senate GOP rank and file as early as Wednesday to try to win as many GOP votes as possible.

New restrictions on Madoff, but no jail

NEW YORK (AP)—A judge on Monday allowed Bernard Madoff to remain confined to his Manhattan penthouse, rejecting a bid to jail the disgraced financier but imposing new restrictions to keep him from mailing any more valuables to family and friends.

In a ruling that provided limited satisfaction to investors wiped out in what may be the largest Ponzi scheme ever, Magistrate Judge Ronald L. Ellis ordered Madoff to take an inventory of the items in his $7 million apartment and submit his outgoing mail to security checks.

Prosecutors said they would ask another judge to jail Madoff while he awaits trial.

"There is a thirst for blood that transcends just those who have been victimized," said attorney Stephen A. Weiss, who added that some of his several dozen Madoff investors "just want to have this guy's head."

Sweeping aside the emotions of the case, the judge cited laws requiring that defendants be allowed to stay out on bail before trial unless they are a danger to the community or a threat to flee.

Those standards make it difficult for prosecutors to have white-collar defendants jailed before trial. The judge noted suspects in nearly 75 percent of federal fraud cases are granted bail.

Prosecutors said they planned to appeal the ruling and ask another judge to revoke Madoff's bail. The judge stayed his ruling for 48 hours, meaning the new restrictions will not take effect right away.

Media wait around the building of Bernard Madoff in New York, Monday, Jan. 12, 2009.

AP

Stocks tumble on new economic worries

NEW YORK (AP)—So much for the Santa Claus rally.

A run-up at the end of the 2008 that had some investors hoping the worst was over is crumbling on fear that corporate profit reports arriving this week will signal a recovery in the economy is further off than Wall Street had hoped.

The Dow Jones industrial average fell for the fourth session Monday as oil prices tumbled and as worries about the financial sector grew. So far this year, the Dow is down 3.5 percent. Stocks are still up sharply from late November but investors are quick to look for even subtle shifts in the market after the terrible run for stocks last year.

A drop in oil added to the pessimism Monday. Crude fell 8 percent to a new low for the year as investors bet economic weakness would curb demand. Wall Street normally welcomes falling oil as a boost for consumers who pay less to put gas in their car, but steep drops can touch off deeper fears in the fragile psyche of the market: if oil falls too much it's a sign that the global economy is showing no signs of improvement.

Stocks have lost ground since the Dow rose 19.6 percent from late November to the first part of 2009—a year-end advance often referred to as a Santa Claus rally. With so many unknowns about when the economy might recover, analysts say most investors prefer to wait until they get a better read on companies' quarterly numbers and, more important, their forecasts.

Wall Street is expecting fourth-quarter and full-year earnings will be particularly bleak, especially after several companies warned last week that they are being hit hard by the recession. Aluminum producer Alcoa Inc., which last week announced it would slash production, fell again Monday after an analyst lowered his rating on the stock. Alcoa said after the market closed that it lost $1.19 billion during its fourth quarter as demand for aluminum plunged.

...as oil tumbles below $38

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP)—Falling crude demand in the world's largest consuming nation drove oil prices Monday to a new low for the year as the U.S. enters a corporate earnings season expected to be fraught with bad news.

The strained economy outweighed factors that would normally boost the market—Mideast tensions, signs that OPEC was implementing large-scale production cuts, the ongoing Gazprom-Ukraine gas dispute and a winter season expected to deliver the coldest weather in a decade.

"It's amazing what the market's ignoring," said Phil Flynn, an analyst at Alaron Trading Corp. "That really tells you the story of how bearish this is."

Light, sweet crude for February delivery fell 8 percent, or $3.24, to settle at $37.59 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

After 10 straight days in which prices rose, the average cost for a gallon of retail gasoline finally fell overnight, catching up to crude markets that began to give way a week ago.

"Clearly, the focus this morning is back on the macroeconomics, and the concern that the demand for oil is just not going to be there any time soon, and there's going to be plenty of oil out there," Flynn said.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

GM unveils battery plan, may need more loans

DETROIT (AP)—General Motors Corp., a wounded company living on cash borrowed from the government, didn't behave like one Monday as it unveiled ambitious plans to research and assemble lithium-ion batteries in Michigan and picked a Korean company to supply the cells to power the Chevrolet Volt electric car. But a top executive raised the prospect that GM will need more federal loans later in the year if the U.S. auto market doesn't improve, saying that the company presented a worst-case scenario to the government last year that would require $18 billion in loans, $4.6 billion more than the Bush administration has granted. The battery factory, to be opened somewhere near Detroit, will employ more than 100 people and be highly automated as it takes cutting-edge lithium-ion cells imported from LG Chem Ltd. of South Korea and welds them into battery packs for the Volt and other next-generation vehicles from GM.

Alcoa reports $1.19B loss in 4Q on low prices

PITTSBURGH (AP)—In a dismal prelude to the earnings season, Alcoa Inc. reported a quarterly loss of $1.19 billion Monday, days after the aluminum giant announced cuts due to sinking prices and demand for the metal. Alcoa, the world's third-largest aluminum company, said it expects to emerge a stronger company when the world economy stabilizes, but offered no specific forecast for the possible start of a recovery. The Pittsburgh-based company's loss highlighted the severe impact of the economic downturn on key aluminum markets, such as the auto and construction industries. Prices of the metal, used in everything from cars and aircraft to window frames and beer cans, have fallen steeply along with other commodities since mid-2008. Analysts don't expect a rebound before mid-2009.

FDIC asks banks to monitor use of bailout money

WASHINGTON (AP)—Federal regulators are asking financial institutions to monitor their use of government money received under the $700 billion rescue plan and other support. Banks and other financial institutions should track how the federal money or guarantees they received helped them boost "prudent lending" and efforts to help at-risk borrowers avoid foreclosures, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. said Monday in a directive issued to the roughly 5,100 state-chartered banks and savings and loans for which it is the primary regulator. "Banks are expected to document how they are continuing to meet the credit needs of creditworthy borrowers," the directive says. "The FDIC expects that ... (institutions) will deploy funding received from these federal programs to prudently support credit needs in their market and strengthen bank capital."

STOCK Portfolio

ASIAN MARKETS

AUSTRALIA 3,593.900 Down 30.100 (-0.83%)

HONG KONG 13,980.91 Up 9.91 (0.07%)

JAKARTA 1,399.085 Down 7.468 (-0.53%)

TOKYO 1,399.085 Down 381.56 (-4.32%)

K. LUMPUR 923.57 Up 4.50 (0.49%)

MANILA 1,996.04 Down 1.79 (-0.09%)

SINGAPORE 1,801.25 Up 25.00 (1.41%)

SEOUL 1,162.8 Up 6.05 (0.52%)

BANGKOK 444.25 Down 8.55 (-1.89%)

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW 8,473.97 -125.21

NASDAQ 1,538.79 -32.80

S&P 870.26 -20.09

MONEY MARKET

Australian Dollar	1.4076
British Pound	0.6446
Canadian Dollar	1.1609
Chinese Renminbi	6.5128
Euro	0.7148
Hong Kong Dollar	7.3863
Indian Rupee	46.4905
Indonesian Rupiah	10,714.2993
Japanese Yen	85.1953
Malaysian Ringgit	3.4105
New Zealand Dollar	1.6877
Philippine Peso	45.3524
Singapore Dollar	1.4213
South Korean Won	1,295.9064
Swiss Franc	1.0646
Taiwan Dollar	31.6553
Thailand Baht	33.3096

In U.S. dollar terms

Source: Associated Press

Nation

Bush gets emotional, defends record in Iraq, home

WASHINGTON (AP)—With rare public emotion, George W. Bush sat in judgment on his controversial, consequential presidency on Monday, lamenting mistakes but claiming few as his own, heatedly defending his record on disasters in Iraq and at home and offering kindly advice to a successor who won largely because the nation ached for something new.

By turns wistful, aggressive and joking in his final news conference, Bush covered a huge range of topics in summing up his eight years in the White House—the latest in a recent string of efforts to have his say before historians have theirs. Then the White House said he would do it again Thursday night in a final address to the nation.

Reaching back to his first day in office, he recalled walking into the White House and having "a moment" when he felt all the responsibilities of the job landing on his shoulders. Barack Obama will feel that next week, he said, his tone gently understanding.

Indeed, he was full of supportive words for Obama—the nation's first black president—and talked of being deeply affected while watching people say on television that they never thought they would see such a day, many with "tears streaming down their cheeks when they said it."

"President-elect Obama's election does speak volumes about how far this country has come when it comes to racial relations," Bush said, seeming almost awe-struck.

He brushed off any suggestion that he'd found the job of president too burdensome—or that Obama would find it so. "It's just pathetic, isn't it, self-pity?" he said. "And I don't believe that President-elect Obama will be full of self-pity."

At the same time, Bush showed his skin is not so thick as all that. "Sometimes the biggest disappointments will come from your so-called friends," he advised Obama. Bush's former press secretary, Scott McClellan, released a scathing tell-all book last year that still stings around the West Wing.

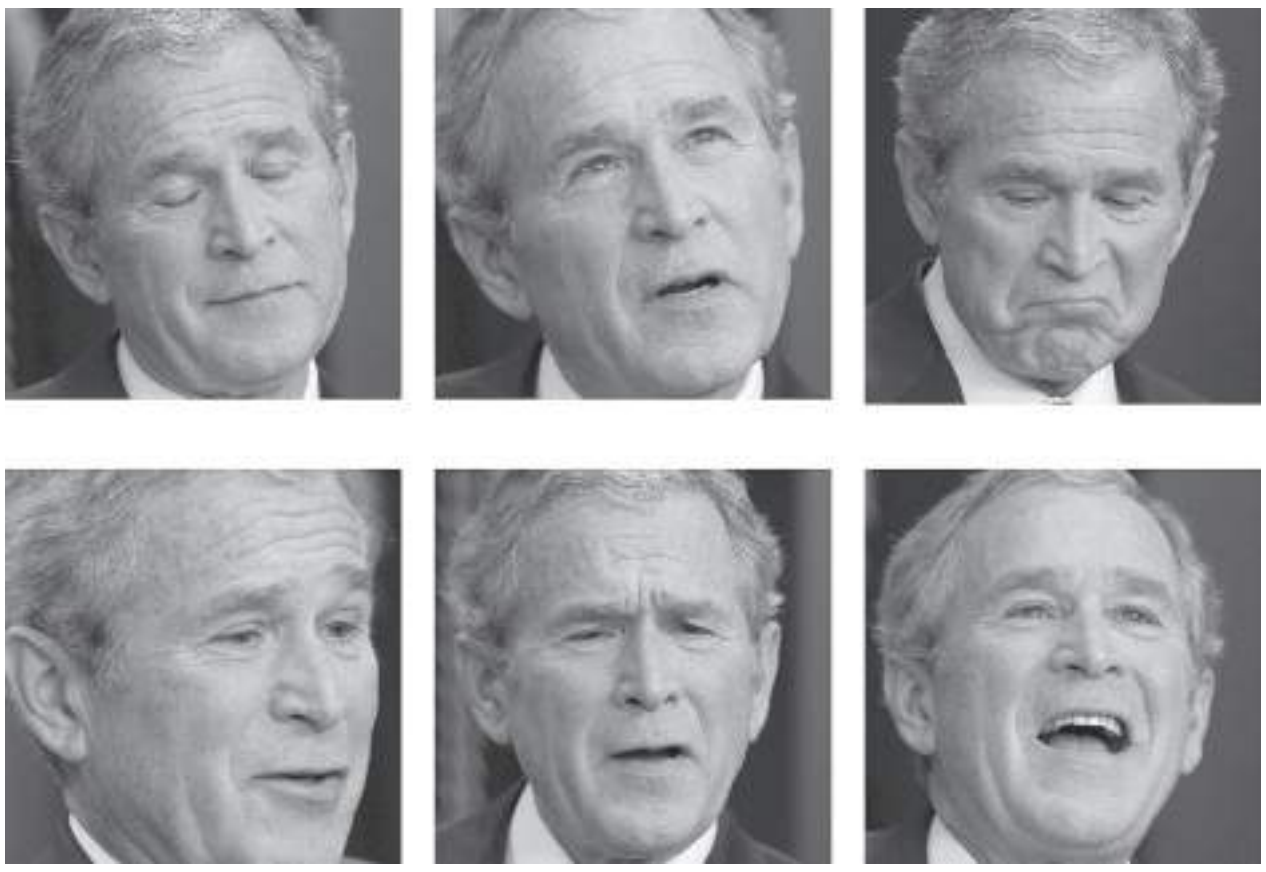
Asked one last time by reporters about the major controversies of his presidency, Bush had a ready answer for each:

■ On the dismal economy he leaves behind for Obama, Bush said, "I inherited a recession, I'm ending on a recession. In the meantime, there were 52 months of uninterrupted job growth." The 2001 recession began in March, two months into his presidency, but economists agree the seeds were sown long before.

Bush also defended himself against economic attacks from his own party on the huge government bailout of Wall Street financial firms. He said, his voice rising, "If you were sitting there and heard that the depression could be greater than the Great Depression, I hope you would act, too, which I did."

■ On the five-year-old Iraq war, the issue that will define his presidency, Bush said history will judge his actions but it is a fact that violence diminished and everyday life became more stable after his decision in 2007 to send an additional 30,000 American troops into the fight.

■ He vigorously took issue with critics of the federal response to Katrina, the hurricane that devastated New Orleans. Gesturing and speaking with feeling, he said, "Don't tell me the federal response was slow when there were 30,000 people pulled off roofs right after the storm passed," he said. "Has the reconstruction been perfect? No. Have things happened fairly quickly? Absolutely."



AP

In this six-picture combo of images, President George W. Bush makes different facial expressions during his last news conference, Monday, Jan. 12, 2009, in the pressroom at the White House in Washington.

Senate Democrats plan to swear in Burris this week

WASHINGTON (AP)—Eager to put the scandal-tainted standoff behind them, Senate Democrats accepted Roland Burris as President-elect Barack Obama's Senate successor on Monday and said they expect to swear in the new Illinois senator soon. "He is now the senator-designate from Illinois and, as such, will be accorded all the rights and privileges of a senator-elect," Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid and Sen. Dick Durbin of Illinois said in a joint statement.

Burris said he's "humbled and honored" to be Illinois' next junior senator, and is thankful for the opportunity to serve.

The two senators said they anticipate that Burris, a former Illinois attorney general appointed to the post by embattled Gov. Rod Blagojevich, will be seated this week barring objections from Republicans.

They made the announcement after Burris lawyers delivered to the Capitol documents certifying his appointment to Obama's seat, and the secretary of the Senate determined that the paperwork met Senate requirements.

Obama prepares to issue order to close Gitmo

WASHINGTON (AP)—President-elect Barack Obama is preparing to issue an executive order his first week in office—and perhaps his first day—to close the U.S. military prison at Guantanamo Bay, according to two presidential transition team advisers. It's unlikely the detention facility at the Navy base in Cuba will be closed anytime soon. In an interview last weekend, Obama said it would be "a challenge" to close it even within the first 100 days of his administration.

But the order, which one adviser said could be issued as early as Jan. 20, would start the process of deciding what to do with the estimated 250 al-Qaida and Taliban suspects and potential witnesses who are being held there. Most have not been charged with a crime.

The Guantanamo directive would be one of a series of executive orders Obama is planning to issue shortly after he takes office next Tuesday, according to the two advisers. Also expected is an executive order about certain interrogation methods, but details were not immediately available Monday.

The advisers spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly about the orders that have not yet been finalized.

Obama transition team spokeswoman Brooke Anderson declined comment Monday.

The American Civil Liberties Union called the order an important first step, but demanded details on how Guantanamo will be shuttered.

ND gets blizzard on top of record snow

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP)—A fast-moving blizzard brought snow and high winds to North Dakota on Monday, closing schools and causing more headaches for residents still trying to dig out from a record snowfall last month.

And, forecasters said a blast of cold air was on the way that could send the thermometer as low as 30 below zero.

Travel was discouraged in the central and western parts of North Dakota because drifting snow, whipped up by high winds, made the visibility almost zero. While the travel advisory was lifted by midday, new advisories were posted in the southeastern part of the state.

No injuries were reported.

The Minot area got 6 inches of snow, on top of about a foot late last week, while Bismarck picked up another 4 inches.

Wind gusts of around 60 mph were reported in southwestern North Dakota and 51 mph in Bismarck. Eastern Montana was rattled with gusts of up to 70 mph, meteorologist Bill Abeling said, but that area did not have as much snow.

As the system moved eastward, blizzard or near-blizzard conditions were expected in parts of South Dakota, Iowa, Minnesota and Illinois. In Iowa, forecasters said 2 to 4 inches of new snow will bring totals since the weekend to nearly a foot in some places, and wind gusts could top 40 mph.

ACROSS THE NATION

Ohio teen convicted of killing mom over video game

ELYRIA, Ohio (AP)—Although a teenager's obsession with a violent video game may have warped his sense of reality, the boy is guilty of murdering his mother and wounding his father after they took "Halo 3" away from him, a judge ruled Monday. "I firmly believe that Daniel Petric had no idea at the time he hatched this plot that if he killed his parents they would be dead forever," Lorain County Common Pleas Judge James Burge said. Nonetheless, Burge rejected the defense attorneys' argument that Petric, 17, was not guilty by reason of insanity. The defense didn't contest that Petric shot his parents in October 2007 after they took the game away from him, but insisted that the teen's youth and addiction made him less responsible. Petric may have been addicted, but the evidence also showed he planned the crime for weeks, said Burge, who found the teenager guilty of aggravated murder, attempted aggravated murder and other charges.

CDC: Tainted peanut butter, 3 deaths may be linked

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—The salmonella bacteria that has sickened more than 400 people in 43 states has been conclusively linked to peanut butter, Minnesota health officials announced Monday. Federal officials said the outbreak may have contributed to three deaths. State health and agriculture officials said last week they had found salmonella bacteria in a 5-pound package of King Nut peanut butter at a nursing facility in Minnesota. Officials tested the bacteria over the weekend and found a genetic match with the bacterial strain that has led to 30 illnesses in Minnesota and others across the country. "The commonality among all of our patients was that they ate peanut butter," said Doug Schultz, a spokesman with the Minnesota Department of Health. While the brand of peanut butter couldn't be confirmed in every case, the majority of patients consumed the same brand, he said Monday.

Gay bishop invited to pre-inauguration event in DC

CONCORD, N.H. (AP)—The first openly gay Episcopal bishop will say a prayer at the Lincoln Memorial for one of President-elect Barack Obama's first inauguration events. New Hampshire Episcopal Bishop V. Gene Robinson will deliver the invocation at an event on Sunday to kick off inauguration festivities. His selection follows weeks of criticism from gay-rights groups over Obama's decision to have the Rev. Rick Warren give the invocation at his Jan. 20 inauguration. Warren had backed a recent ballot measure banning same-sex marriage in his home state of California. Robinson has said he was stung by Warren's selection, but still believes Obama will be the most supportive president ever for gay-rights causes. "There's no question in my mind that he is the president who understands our issues and comes out of a background knowing what it's like to be discriminated against because of who you are," Robinson said Monday. "I think for the first time in a very long time we'll have a friend in the White House."

Asia

Search for survivors of Indonesian ferry resumes

AP

An Indonesian Navy boat comes into port after searching for survivors after the 700 ton ferry, Teratai Prima sank Monday Jan. 12, 2009 in Pare-Pare, West Sulawesi, Indonesia.

PAREPARE, Indonesia (AP)—Rescue teams took to the air and sea at sunrise Tuesday, renewing the search for more than 230 people missing after an Indonesian ferry capsized in a cyclone.

At least 34 people, including the captain, have been rescued and one body recovered. But hopes were fading that anyone else would be found alive two days after the boat sank.

Transport Minister Jusman Syafii Djamal said a widespread investigation was under way to determine why the crew apparently ignored warnings not to travel into the Makassar Strait.

The government will compensate families $2,400, or roughly two times an average annual salary in impoverished Indonesia, for each victim of the disaster.

Most survivors were picked up by fishing and cargo ships within hours of the sinking and taken to nearby ports. They recounted a churning sea and relentless waves before the ferry suddenly capsizing in the dark.

Baco, a passenger, was fast asleep in the ship's lower, economy-class deck when sea water rushed in and swept away about 20 children within seconds as he looked on helplessly.

"They were just sucked away," he said, sobbing as he recalled how the boat suddenly capsized before dawn Sunday in a cyclone off the coast of Indonesia's Sulawesi island, killing hundreds aboard.

More than 230 passengers and crew were missing and presumed dead at nightfall Monday, following a day of intense searching amid high waves and strong winds.

Baco, a father of five who was taking the ferry to Borneo to look for a job with an oil company, described the sudden horror of the scene.

"Many people were still sleeping when the water came to the second deck just above the engine room," said Baco, 40, who like many Indonesians uses only one name.

"Around 20 little children were taken by the sea. I could do nothing," he said, weeping as he described the screams of the drowning.

Baco clung to a piece of plastic foam and drifted for five hours before joining another man on a life raft. They were later picked up by fishermen.

Sri Lankan editor points a finger from the grave

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—Lasantha Wickrematunge, a prominent Sri Lankan journalist and outspoken critic of the government's war on ethnic Tamil rebels, knew he was marked for death—and thought he knew why.

Three days after he was gunned down execution-style, Wickrematunge's newspaper published a haunting, self-written obituary Sunday in which he says he was targeted for his writings and adds: "When finally I am killed, it will be the government that kills me."

Even as Sri Lanka savors battlefield victories over Tamil Tiger rebels that offer hope of finally ending the decades-long civil war, the government is coping with attacks on another front: It faces harsh criticism from abroad, from at home—even from the grave—over high-profile attacks on the independent media.

Wickrematunge's death and another attack last week that trashed a television station were the latest in a string of assaults against journalists. Both most-recent media targets had been accused of insufficient patriotism in their coverage of the war and other issues.

International rights groups, diplomats and local activists expressed outrage at the attacks, while opposition politicians accused the government of at best condoning the violence and possibly ordering the strikes itself.

AP

Elderly Sri Lankan women hold photograph of the Sunday Leader newspaper editor Lasantha Wickrematunge during his funeral procession in Colombo, Sri Lanka, Monday, Jan. 12, 2009.

Pet food suspected of killing dogs in China

SHANGHAI, China (AP)—A local distributor of a popular brand of dog food said Monday it had suspended sales of the product following reports that dogs who ate it died from poisoning.

China's recent food safety scandals have centered on locally made products; this time it wasn't immediately clear whether the product was locally made or imported.

A customer service manager at Shanghai Yidi Pet Co. said the company stopped selling Optima brand dog food last week following reports that more than a dozen dogs who ate it had died from aflatoxin poisoning.

"It's upsetting to see so many dogs getting sick from the food," said Gu, who gave only his last name as is common with many media-shy Chinese.

A report Monday in the Shanghai Daily newspaper said at least 20 dogs in four Chinese cities, including Beijing, had died since the end of November from liver complications from aflatoxin, a naturally occurring chemical from a fungus sometimes found on corn and other crops.

It wasn't clear who makes the Optima brand involved in the complaints.

An Optima brand of pet food is made by Doane International Pet Products LLC, based in Brentwood, Tenn. Mars Inc. acquired the Brentwood-based Doane Pet Care Enterprises Inc. in 2006.

U.S.-based Mars Inc., the world's largest chocolate seller and the maker of several pet foods, denied involvement Monday but said it was investigating the reports from China.

Reports: NKorea wants to send envoy to DC

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea wants to send its chief nuclear envoy to President-elect Barack Obama's inauguration but Washington rejected the idea, news reports said.

North Korea, which does not have diplomatic relations with the U.S., proposed sending Vice Foreign Minister Kim Kye Gwan to Obama's Jan. 20 inauguration, the JoongAng Ilbo newspaper reported Monday, citing an unidentified South Korean government official.

Washington rebuffed the request, the Yonhap news agency said. South Korean Foreign Minister Yu Myung-hwan said he has heard the reports but "I understand things are not going that way."

Such a move would be another sign the regime is eager to forge ties with the next U.S. administration after years of tense relations with the Bush administration.

U.S. officials have not confirmed Pyongyang's reported request. However, the U.S. State Department last week informed foreign embassies in Washington that ambassadors and spouses can attend the inauguration to represent their countries but excluded foreign leaders from the event.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Carter urges Obama to work closely with China

BEIJING (AP)—Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, whose administration formalized diplomatic ties with China 30 years ago, on Monday urged President-elect Barack Obama to find ways to work more closely with Beijing on global issues. Carter also called the US-China diplomatic relationship the most important in the world today and predicted it would continue to greatly benefit both sides for decades to come. In an interview with The Associated Press, Carter said both sides had to overcome periodic tensions and find ways to cooperate on issues including climate change, terrorism as well as the world financial crisis. "The main thing is for the new administration to work harmoniously with China ... and overcome those differences which are inevitable and seek out the best ways to cooperate as partners," Carter said on the sidelines of a conference commemorating the establishment of ties on Jan. 1, 1979.

Thai court charges club owner for New Year's fire

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP)—A Thai court issued arrest warrants Monday for the owner and manager of a trendy Bangkok nightclub where 66 revelers perished in a New Year's Eve fire and stampede, police said. Wisuth Setsawat, the owner of Santika Club, and club manager Suriya Ritrabue have been charged with negligence resulting in the death and injuries of others, Deputy National Police Commissioner Gen. Jongrak Jutanont said. "More than 1,000 people were allowed into the building, which has a capacity for only 500 people," Jongrak said. "The safety measures were also dysfunctional. Fire exits were not clearly marked. Automatic fire extinguishers were not present." Police have said the fire was likely sparked by a fireworks display on the nightclub's stage. The two have also been charged with allowing in underage customers. A 17-year-old was found among the dead.

2,300 lizards escape Malaysia cooking pot threat

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Malaysian wildlife authorities rescued 2,300 endangered lizards headed for restaurants that offer exotic meat, an official said Tuesday. The clouded monitor lizards were found in cages at a storage facility holding live and dead animals that were destined for cooking pots in Malaysia and abroad, said an official with the state wildlife department. The lizards, which are about 5 feet (1.5 meters) long, will be released into the wild soon, the official said on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to make public statements. Officials also found 319 owl carcasses and 22 paws of the protected Malayan sun bear, he said. The meat, which was worth about 500,000 ringgit ($140,000), was believed to be on its way to China, the official said.

World

Israeli leader warns Hamas of 'iron fist'

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP)—Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert stood within Hamas rocket range Monday and warned Islamic militants that they face an "iron fist" unless they agree to Israeli terms for an end to war in the Gaza Strip. Hamas showed no signs of wavering, however, with its leader, Ismail Haniyeh, saying the militants were "closer to victory."

Despite the tough words, Egypt said it was making slow progress in brokering a truce, and special Mideast envoy Tony Blair said elements were in place for a cease-fire.

As Olmert spoke in the Israeli city of Ashkelon, Israeli tanks, gunboats and warplanes hammered suspected hiding places of Hamas operatives who control the poor, densely populated territory just across the border.

■ ■ ■

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—Frustrated and anguished at the escalating violence in Gaza, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said Monday he's embarking on a Mideast tour to press for Israel and Hamas to immediately stop fighting and allow humanitarian aid into the devastated Palestinian territory.

Ban said he plans to step up diplomatic efforts to get both sides to adhere to a U.N. cease-fire resolution calling for an end to Israel's air and ground offensive in Gaza and Hamas' rocketing of southern Israel.

AP

An Israeli reservist checks his weapon as he and others stand near Israel's border with Gaza, in southern Israel, Monday, Jan. 12, 2009.

"To both sides, I say: Just stop, now," the U.N. chief told a news conference. "Too many people have died. There has been too much civilian suffering. Too many people, Israelis and Palestinians, live in daily fear of their lives."

Since Israel launched its offensive on Dec. 27, Ban said he has been on the phone constantly with top officials in the Middle East, Europe and the United States promoting a cease-fire. But he said phone calls aren't a substitute for direct talks with leaders who have influence on the parties.

■ ■ ■

After nightfall, flares and explosions lit up the sky over Gaza and heavy gunfire was heard in parts of the coastal territory of 1.4 million people.

Hamas' fighters battled Israeli troops on the outskirts of Gaza City and launched 15 rockets at southern Israel. The group's prime minister insisted on an Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and the opening of blockaded border crossings as part of any truce.

"As we are in the middle of this crisis, we tell our people we, God willing, are closer to victory. All the blood that is being shed will not go to waste," Haniyeh said on Hamas' Al Aqsa television. But he said the group was also pursuing a diplomatic track to end the conflict that "will not close."

Haniyeh sat a desk in a room with a Palestinian flag and a Quran in the background. His location was unclear; Israeli airstrikes have targeted militant chiefs, and most are in hiding.

The fighting began Dec. 27 and has killed more than 900 Palestinians, about half of them civilians, according to Palestinian medical officials. Thirteen Israelis, including 10 soldiers, have been killed.

Calling all cars: Cuba recruits free-market taxis

HAVANA (AP)—Cubans with classic American cars—or even rusty Russian sedans—are being encouraged to apply for taxi licenses and set their own prices for the first time in nearly a decade as the communist government turns to the free market to improve its woeful transportation system.

Under regulations published into law this week, Cuba is applying a larger dose of supply-and-demand to an economy that remains 90 percent under state control.

The move by President Raul Castro's government also breaks with the policies of his ailing brother Fidel, who long accused private taxis—legal and otherwise—of seeking "juicy profits" and fomenting a black market for state-subsidized gasoline that Cuba "had sweated and bled" to obtain.

New taxi licenses have not been approved since October 1999, and it is not clear how many new cabs will be allowed. The measure orders officials to determine what combination of "autos, jeeps, panel trucks, microbuses, three-wheelers and motorcycles" will best meet each area's needs.

Biden meets with Iraqi leaders; bombings kill 10

BAGHDAD (AP)—Vice President-elect Joe Biden conferred Monday with Iraqi leaders after a trip to Afghanistan, capping a tour of U.S. battlefronts on a day when police reported bombings killed 10 people in Baghdad.

The four attacks were a reminder that major violence may still return, complicating the incoming administration's plans to draw down troops in Iraq and focus more attention on Afghanistan.

Biden, a frequent visitor to Iraq as a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, met with President Jalal Talabani, Vice President Adel Abdul-Mahdi and deputy Prime Minister Barham Saleh after arriving in Baghdad.

U.S. officials issued no public statement.

But Abdul-Mahdi said they discussed implementation of a security agreement that took effect on Jan. 1. The accord sets a three-year timeframe for the full withdrawal of American forces.

The Iraqis also stressed the importance of enhancing U.S.-Iraqi cooperation in fields other than security, the Shiite vice president said in a statement.

For his part, Biden renewed the U.S. commitment toward Iraq and stressed the need to continue developing state institutions, according to the statement.

Biden and South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham had dinner with the vice president-elect's son, Beau Biden, and other members of the Delaware National Guard serving in Iraq, Biden's staff said.

Biden's trip to Iraq followed visits to Pakistan and Afghanistan this weekend, a little over a week before the Jan. 20 inauguration.

President-elect Barack Obama has promised to end the nearly 6-year-old war in Iraq and refocus U.S. military efforts on Afghanistan, where al-Qaida-linked militants and the Taliban are making a comeback after initial defeats in the U.S.-led invasion of 2001.

But Obama has promised to consult his commanders and the Iraqi government before ordering withdrawals.

American commanders worry that a quick departure could trigger more violence because Iraqi security forces may not be ready to take on more responsibility.

SAfrican court says Zuma can face corruption trial

BLOEMFONTEIN, South Africa (AP)—African National Congress leader Jacob Zuma suffered a legal defeat Monday that could force him to divide his time between a corruption trial and a presidential campaign.

South Africa's second-highest court cleared the way for a new corruption trial for Zuma, overturning a lower court's decision to throw out the case. Supreme Court judge Louis Harms said the original ruling was riddled with errors and ignored basic legal standards.

Prosecutors said they will seek a new trial date, while the ANC insisted Zuma remains its presidential candidate.

The ruling comes just two days after Zuma was cheered like a rock star at a rally that drew tens of thousands and launched the governing party's campaign for elections expected in March or April.

The ANC presents Zuma as the face of its shift to a more populist style, and dismisses the charges against him as a plot by rivals led by former President Thabo Mbeki.

The ANC, embraced as the party that led the battle against apartheid, has dominated all three votes since white rule ended in 1994. It is expected to do well this year as well, even with the cloud over Zuma and a new challenge from Mbeki supporters who broke away to form their own party late last year.

WORLD BRIEFS

Poland: Workers find WWII mass grave of Germans

WARSAW, Poland (AP)—Construction workers in northern Poland have unearthed a World War II-era mass grave containing what are believed to be the bodies of 1,800 German men, women and children who disappeared during the Soviet Army's march to Berlin. Poles digging at the site of a planned luxury hotel in Malbork—which was called Marienburg and was part of Germany during the war—excavated a bomb crater at the foot of the city's famous 13th century Teutonic Knights fortress, authorities said Monday. The workers found a small group of bodies in late October and halted digging to allow prosecutors to investigate. After resuming work weeks later, the workers turned up dozens, and then hundreds, more corpses. They believe more may be found. It was not immediately clear how the bodies ended up in the crater but initial examinations by Polish and German experts have concluded that they are likely the remains of German citizens still classified as "missing" more than 60 years after the end of the war, town official Piotr Szwedowski told The Associated Press.

Cost of 3 papers in Zimbabwe: 1 $50 billion note

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP)—Zimbabwe's central bank released a new $50 billion note Monday—enough to buy three newspapers in the nation's hyper-inflated economy. The new note was worth 1.25 U.S. dollars at Monday's black market exchange rate. A week ago, $50 billion was worth $2.20. Two weeks ago it was worth 3.30 U.S. dollars. The Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe unveiled new $20 billion and $50 billion notes in an advertisement in Monday's Herald newspaper. It said the notes were being introduced "for your convenience." In December, the bank printed new $10 billion notes. But each time a larger denomination note comes, prices shoot up in the shops even though local currency is so scarce that most demand that customers pay in U.S. dollars or South African rand. Zimbabweans are reeling from the inflation. The largest note ever in the country was $100 billion in August, when the bank struck 10 zeros from the currency. Then The Herald newspaper cost 10 new Zimbabwe dollars. Today the paper costs $15 billion.

Campus Life

College graduates avoid brunt of layoffs

By CHRISTOPHER LEONARD
AP BUSINESS WRITER

For one group of workers, the recession hasn't hit quite so hard.

Their unemployment rate was nearly half the overall workforce in December. When they do lose jobs, they tend to find work more quickly than others. Their wages are higher, and they typically have enough savings to survive between jobs.

Yes, it still pays to get a college degree.

Despite recent high-profile layoffs of bankers, accountants and other highly educated workers, college graduates are faring much better than the labor force as a whole. For December, their unemployment rate was 3.7 percent, compared with 7.2 percent for everyone regardless of academic pedigree.

The reason is simple: A degree usually leads to higher-paying, more stable jobs. And if that job goes away, a highly educated worker can always take a step down the career ladder. Or, they may not have to.

"We've made a big committement where we're still recruiting on campus," said Jennifer Allyn, managing director in office of diversity at PricewaterhouseCoopers. "We hired 3,000 people last year and we plan to do the same this year. It's not like it's going into a deep freeze."

College grads "have a privileged position in the labor market," said Lawrence Mishel, president of the Economic Policy Institute in Washington.

That's not to say they haven't been hurt by the recession. The December jobless rate is just shy of the record for college grads - 3.9 percent hit in January 1983.

Tom and Shelley Ziech both have master's degrees and impressive resumes. They both lost their jobs last year.

The Milwaukee couple makes ends meet by drawing on unemployment insurance, severance packages and personal savings. So far, they have avoided spending retirement investments.

Tom Ziech said he's confident the couple will be back at work soon.

"I have felt fairly optimistic, but I don't know why. I don't really have anything to back that up," he said with a laugh. "But I feel optimistic I'm going to find something."

The spread between college graduates and overall unemployment has persisted through every recession since at least the 1970s.

The 3.9 percent unemployment record in 1983 for college grads compared with an overall jobless rate of 10.4 percent. Though the Labor Department lacks comparable figures for college graduates before 1992, other department data suggest the jobless rate for graduates peaked around 3.9 percent in 1983.

The spread is there in good times, too. Since 1992, the jobless rate for college graduates has hovered near 2 percent. It's risen as high as 3.4 percent in 1992 and as low as 1.5 percent during the dot-com boom in 2000. By contrast, the jobless rate for high school dropouts rose as high as 12.2 percent in 1992. The lowest it ever got was 5.8 percent in 1999, and it climbed to 10.9 percent last month.

College grads also earn more.

When workers graduate high school, their average wage jumps about 32 percent, from $11.38 to $15.01 an hour. If they attend college but don't get a degree, their wages rise about 13 percent. But if they graduate, their average hourly wage leaps 77 percent to $26.51 an hour. Getting an advanced degree boosts earnings 27 percent, to $33.57, according to a 2008 study from the Economic Policy Institute.

Still, Mishel predicted the unemployment rate for college graduates will reach a record 4 or 5 percent during 2009 and that educated workers "are going to experience the kind of pain that has been common for people with less education."

The power of a degree also has been partly diluted by broader college attendance. Ten percent of workers had a college degree in 1973, 12.7 percent in 1979 and 21 percent in 2007, according to the Economic Policy Institute.

Tom and Shelly Ziech pose in their home Tuesday, Nov. 25, 2008, in Milwaukee. Both have master's degrees and impressive resumes, but they lost their jobs last year. The Milwaukee couple makes ends meet by drawing on unemployment insurance, severance packages and personal savings.

AP

'Helping students in a different way'

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

During her short tenure, first-year principal Rizalina M. Purugganan has learned the difference between being a teacher and being in charge of an entire school. As principal of Koblerville Elementary School, she oversees 463 students. Here she answers some questions.

Question: What is your background?

Answer: I have 14 years of experience in teaching. I graduated from Framingham State College with a master's degree in education in 2006. This is my first year as principal. I was very active in PSS leadership before, including as the science coordinator.

Q: What is the best thing about being a principal?

A: The best thing is you are helping the students in a different degree. You are able to work with teachers at a different level. You become close with the teachers and parents, and you become involved with a lot of different things in the school.

Q: What is the hardest part about being a principal?

A: The thing about it is I've been used to doing a lot of things in the leadership position and I became used to that. So far, though, I don't see anything difficult yet with being a principal.

Q: What are your goals for the rest of the school year?

A: Our goal really is to maintain the high student achievement, or increase student achievement. We also have a goal to maintain the safety in the school and for students to become achievers and productive individuals.

Purugganan

Q: What have you learned being a principal?

A: I've leaned a lot from being principal. I learned how to help the school at a different level. Before when I was a teacher, I just had to take care of curriculum instruction, but now I have to look at every aspect of the education system, like doing financial reports. That's one thing. I learned how to work with other companies so that we could get more funding for our schools.

Q: What do you do in your free time?

A: I do things as a housewife, doing chores at home. I spend time with my family when I have free time.

CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCE CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Mrs. Demapan, shown here carrying her son, Christian and her students pose for a souvenir shot after their performance at the Garapan Elementary School Christmas program.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Tinian High PTA meeting today

This is to inform parents and guardians of Tinian High School students that there will be a PTA meeting today, Wednesday, Jan. 14, at 3:30pm at the Tinian Youth Center. All parents and guardians are encouraged to attend this important meeting. Call Herman Hofschneider, Carla SanNicolas, Lynette Hofschneider or Rose Lazaro if you have any questions. ***(PR)***

Humanities Council to host poetry competition

The NMI Council for the Humanities is reminding all junior high and high schools in the CNMI about the upcoming submission deadline for the Sixth Annual Sengebau Poetry Competition.

Poetry entries must be received by the Humanities Council no later than 4pm on Feb. 18. ach eligible school is asked to hold internal competition to select its top two entries. Entries may be dropped at the Humanities Council's office in King's Plaza in Dandan or sent via fax at 235-4786.

The final recital event will be held at the American Memorial Park Visitors Center Theater at 6pm on Feb. 27. The competition is open to all junior high and high school students on Saipan, Rota and Tinian.

For more information, call 235-4785 or visit www.nmihumanities.org. ***(PR)***

MHS Class of '88 meeting set

This is to remind the Marianas High School Class of 1988 on their meeting will be held on Friday, Jan. 16, 2009, at the residence of Melvin P. & Eleanor A. Cepeda in As Lito. ***(PR)***

WSR Elementary School January events

■ Jan. 15 Parent Literacy Night Workshop #2 (Kindergarten Parents) 5:30pm, WSR Library
■ Jan. 16 Mrs. Mary Jane Lime's class visit to dentist (8-11am)
■ Jan. 19 Martin Luther King Day Holiday (no classes)
■ Jan. 20-21 Half day (students released at 12pm), Reading first assessment testing (teachers will set appointment)
■ Jan. 20 Ms. Paulette Tudela's class dentist visit (8-11am)
■ Jan. 21 Ms.Dorina Castro's class dentist visit (8-11am)
■ Jan. 22 WSR school-level science fair judging, Ms. Martha Mendiola's class dentist visit (8-11am), parent literacy night workshop #3 (Kindergarten parents), 5:30pm, WSR Library
■ Jan. 23 WSR school-level science fair viewing (open to the public), Mrs. Divine Dela Cruz's class dentist visit (8-11am)
■ Jan. 26 Leadership team meeting, 2:45pm, WSR Library, Ms. Amanda Angel's class visit to dentist (8-11am)
■ Jan. 27 Spelling bee finals, 2:45pm, WSR cafeteria, Mr. Victor Cabrera's class visit to dentist (8-11am)
■ Jan. 28 Half-day (students released at 12pm) Teacher professional development, Ms. Monica Pangelinan's class visit to dentist (8-11am)
■ Jan. 29 Mr. Steve Gilles's class visit to dentist (8-11am), parent literacy night workshop #4 (Kindergarten parents), 5:30pm, WSR Library
■ Jan. 30 End of 2nd Quarter, 2nd Quarter Report Card Day (Report Card will be distributed to students, unless a parent conference is needed—teachers will make appointments with parents), Ms. Phyllis class visit to dentist (8-11am), STUCO sponsored movie day, 2:30pm, WSR Library ($1 entrance fee)
■ Jan. 30-31 Island-Wide Science Fair, Marianas High School

Life & Style

Sequels, prequels, remakes lead 2009 pack

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Hollywood boldly goes where we've all been before in 2009, with dozens of sequels, prequels, remakes, updates and adaptations based on books, video games and toys.

Despite the recession, blockbuster franchise flicks have rung up killer box-office returns. Studios hope that continues this year with such familiar names as "Harry Potter," "Hannah Montana," "Star Trek," "Transformers," "X-Men," "Alvin and the Chipmunks," "Ice Age," "The Terminator" and "Sherlock Holmes."

Fans of the world's favorite teen wizard have a particular reason to be itching for the next installment. It's been two years since a "Harry Potter" movie hit theaters, the longest interval since Warner Bros. began churning them out in 2001.

Part six, "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince," arrives this summer after a surprise delay, when the studio bumped it from its original slot last November.

"Half-Blood Prince" has Harry (Daniel Radcliffe) charged with unlocking secrets from the noggin of a new teacher (Jim Broadbent), information vital to the young wizard's ongoing battle with the evil Voldemoort.

Meantime, Harry struggles to get on with the usual teenage pressures of school, social activities and budding romance.

"We've got some really playful sequences and some material that obviously dips into the darker world of `Potter,'" director David Yates said. "As the series matures, it tonally does get darker overall. It's sort of inevitable as you follow the material. The kids are getting older, more mature and complex."

Getting younger are the heroes of another otherworldly summer franchise. James Kirk, Spock and the rest of the Enterprise crew return in "Star Trek," a relaunch of the series featuring an all-new cast (though Leonard Nimoy is on hand to play the older Spock).

Director J.J. Abrams takes the sci-fi series back to its roots, explaining how the gang of interstellar explorers came together in the first place.

"For Kirk and Spock, it's charting their lives to a small extent from boyhood and their first encounter, which is a bit contentious, to kind of the beginning of the relationship we all know," said Chris Pine, who plays Kirk, the dashing Starfleet officer originated by William Shatner, opposite Zachary Quinto as the younger Spock.

"They are at odds at first. The conflict of the relationship actually gives Zachary a couple moments where he's not as controlled and rational as Mr. Nimoy's character was. He has a couple of outbursts that aren't exactly the classic Spock."

Other highlights of Hollywood's upcoming schedule:

WINTER AND SPRING:

ALL ABOUT STEVE: Sandra Bullock's a crossword-puzzle creator on a road trip in pursuit of her soul mate.

CONFESSIONS OF A SHOPAHOLIC: A journalist (Isla Fisher) finds romance as she pursues her retail addiction.

DUPLICITY: Julia Roberts and Clive Owen are spies carrying on an affair amid a dangerous assignment.

FAST AND FURIOUS: Vin Diesel and Paul Walker lead the original cast of "The Fast and the Furious" into a new racing thriller.

FRIDAY THE 13TH: The slasher franchise goes back to its beginning with an update of the horror tale about killer Jason Voorhees.

HANNAH MONTANA: THE MOVIE: Miley Cyrus brings her dual life as an ordinary school girl and pop star from TV to the big-screen.

HE'S JUST NOT THAT INTO YOU: Ben Affleck, Jennifer Aniston, Drew Barrymore and Scarlett Johansson lead the cast of this ensemble romance.

THE INTERNATIONAL: Clive Owen and Naomi Watts lead a probe into banks that finance terrorism.

JONAS BROTHERS: THE 3-D CONCERT EXPERIENCE: The Disney stars follow the hit "Hannah Montana" flick with their own concert movie.

STREET FIGHTER: THE LEGEND OF CHUN-LI: The video-game sensation is adapted into an action tale of warriors in Bangkok.

THE UGLY TRUTH: Romance is in the air for a lovelorn TV producer (Katherine Heigl) and a tough on-air personality (Gerard Butler).

UNDERWORLD: RISE OF THE LYCANS: The roots of an ancient feud between vampires and werewolves are explored in this prequel.

WATCHMEN: A superhero's murder casts his old associates into the investigation of a global conspiracy against their kind.

SUMMER SEASON:

ANGELS & DEMONS: Tom Hanks and director Ron Howard follow up "The Da Vinci Code" with this showdown between the Vatican and a secret brotherhood.

NOSAURS: Ray Romano and his prehistoric pals return in part three of the animated franchise.

I LOVE YOU BETH COOPER: Hayden Panettiere stars in a romance about a teen geek who gets his shot with the school hottie.

IMAGINE THAT: Eddie Murphy's a dad whose daughter's imaginary world holds the key to solving his personal crises.

INGLOURIOUS BASTERDS: Brad Pitt stars in Quentin Tarantino's World War II epic that's a throwback to "Dirty Dozen"-style war action.

LAND OF THE LOST: Will Ferrell's a scientist hurled into a world of dinosaurs in this update of the TV show.

MY SISTER'S KEEPER: Cameron Diaz and Abigail Breslin star in a drama about a girl conceived as a donor for her ailing sister.

NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM: BATTLE OF THE SMITHSONIAN: The national museum comes alive in Ben Stiller's comedy sequel.

THE PROPOSAL: Sandra Bullock's a book editor trying to avoid deportation by marrying her harried assistant (Ryan Reynolds).

PUBLIC ENEMIES: Johnny Depp and Christian Bale star in Michael Mann's saga of Depression-era gangster John Dillinger.

THE TAKING OF PELHAM 1 2 3: Denzel Washington and John Travolta star in the remake about crooks who hijack a subway train for ransom.

TERMINATOR: SALVATION: Christian Bale leads humanity's remnants against machine enemies in the franchise's first flick without Arnold Schwarzenegger.

TRANSFORMERS: REVENGE OF THE FALLEN: Shia LaBeouf and his giant Autobot buddies team up for a rematch against the tyrannical Decepticons.

2012: John Cusack stars in an action epic about the end of the world and what comes after.

UP: The latest from Pixar Animation ("WALL-E") follows the balloon adventure of an old man and a boy stowaway.

X-MEN ORIGINS: WOLVERINE: Hugh Jackman goes solo in a prequel to the "X-Men" movies spelling out the back-story of his mysterious superhero.

YEAR ONE: Jack Black and Michael Cera are primitive outcasts on an epic romp through ancient history.

Fall and holidays:

ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS: THE SQUEAKUEL: The talking chipmunks return for part two of their big-screen adventures.

AVATAR: "Titanic" director James Cameron spins a sci-fi epic about a human-alien hybrid fighting for his people's survival.

DISNEY'S A CHRISTMAS CAROL: Jim Carrey does multiple roles as Scrooge and the holiday ghosts in Robert Zemeckis' animated Dickens adaptation.

FAME: Students sing, dance and dream of stardom in a new take on the hit film and TV show about a school for performing arts.

THE FANTASTIC MR. FOX: George Clooney's the mouthpiece for a sly fox stealing chickens from dopey farmers in this animated comedy.

THE INFORMANT: Matt Damon stars in Steven Soderbergh's tale of a corporate whistle-blower with secrets of his own.

THE LOVELY BONES: Peter Jackson ("The Lord of the Rings") directs Mark Wahlberg and Rachel Weisz in a drama about a slain girl playing guardian angel for her family.

NEW MOON: Young love between an awkward teenager and an ageless vampire continues in the "Twilight" sequel starring Kristen Stewart and Robert Pattinson.

OLD DOGS: A bachelor and a divorced man (John Travolta and Robin Williams) become the unexpected caretakers of 6-year-old twins.

THE PRINCESS AND THE FROG: Disney returns to old-school hand-drawn animation with an update of the classic frog prince fairy tale.

SHERLOCK HOLMES: Robert Downey Jr. has the lead in this latest take on literature's most-famous detective.

SHUTTER ISLAND: Leonardo DiCaprio and director Martin Scorsese pair up again for a story of U.S. marshals on a case at an insane asylum.

TOOTH FAIRY: It's tutu time for Dwayne Johnson, who plays a hockey player magically sentenced to serving a week as the mythical Tooth Fairy.

UP IN THE AIR: George Clooney's a corporate hatchet man whose job is in jeopardy due to corporate downsizing.

WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE: Director Spike Jonze adapts the children's classic about a boy with a fantastical world as his personal playground.

THE WOLFMAN: Benicio Del Toro turns werewolf in this new take on the horror classic that co-stars Anthony Hopkins.

AP

In this image released by Warner Bros., Emma Watson, center, Daniel Radcliffe, right, and Rupert Grint are shown in a scene from "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince."

MONSTERS VS. ALIENS: Reese Witherspoon leads the voice cast in an animated comedy about mutants battling an alien robot.

OBSERVE AND REPORT: Seth Rogen stars in the tale of an overzealous mall cop aiming to get into the police academy.

THE PINK PANTHER 2: Steve Martin's Inspector Clouseau bumbles through an investigation of stolen treasures.

RACE TO WITCH MOUNTAIN: Dwayne Johnson's a cabbie aiding fugitive teens with special powers in a remake of "Escape to Witch Mountain."

17 AGAIN: Zac Efron and Matthew Perry star in a comedy about a middle-aged loser transformed back to his teen years.

THE SOLOIST: Jamie Foxx and Robert Downey Jr. star in a drama about a music prodigy living on the streets.

STATE OF PLAY: Russell Crowe and Ben Affleck star in a murder mystery set among the elite of Washington, D.C.

BRUNO: "Borat" star Sacha Baron Cohen takes another of his alter egos, Austrian fashionista Bruno, on the road.

DRAG ME TO HELL: "Spider-Man" and "Evil Dead" director Sam Raimi returns to his horror roots with this tale of a cursed woman.

FUNNY PEOPLE: Adam Sandler, Seth Rogen and director Judd Apatow aim for laughs with a serious story about a dying comedian.

G-FORCE: Nicolas Cage and Penelope Cruz are among the voice cast of an action comedy about guinea pigs trained as covert operatives.

GHOSTS OF GIRLFRIENDS PAST: Matthew McConaughey and Jennifer Garner star in the tale of a womanizer visited by the spirits of his jilted exes.

G.I. JOE: THE RISE OF COBRA: The Hasbro toys go into action in this tale of military operatives hunting an arms dealer.

ICE AGE: DAWN OF THE DI-

Once an underdog, 'Slumdog' is now a heavyweight

NEW YORK (AP)—In May, "Slumdog Millionaire" appeared headed for that shameful scrap heap of movies: a direct-to-video release.

But with the film's four-award sweep at the Golden Globes on Sunday, Danny Boyle's romance has completed the same rags-to-riches trajectory of its main character. Like the underdog success of Jamal Malik—a poor kid from the slums of Mumbai who becomes a flawless contestant on India's "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire—"Slumdog" is an unlikely triumph.

"This could turn into a $100 million movie now," said Paul Dergarabedian, president of box-office tracker Media by Numbers. "It's like the snowball effect."

Its win at the Golden Globes will help secure its future, both as a box office success and as a major player at the Oscars, which will announce its nominees next Thursday.

"It really gives the film credibility to people who maybe didn't know that much about it or didn't understand it," Dergarabedian said. "Suddenly, this is like the stamp of approval. It creates a situation where people are going to have to see this film."

It also assures that Fox Searchlight will reinvest in marketing and expand the film's release to capitalize on its success. Spokespeople at Fox Searchlight declined to comment on the studio's plans Monday.

AP

In this handout image, provided by NBC, the cast and crew of "Slumdog Millionaire" accept the award for Best Motion Picture - Drama on stage during the 66th Annual Golden Globe Awards on Sunday Jan. 11, 2009 in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Slumdog was filmed in India with a budget of only $14 million and has no big-name actors, and about a fifth of it is in Hindi.

"We really weren't expecting to be here in America at all at one point so it's just amazing to be standing here," said screenwriter Simon Beaufoy while accepting his Golden Globe Sunday.

But since the film's November limited release in 10 theaters, it has made $34 million, garnered excellent reviews, strong word-of-mouth and numerous awards. The honors include the audience award at the Toronto Film Festive and best picture from the National Board of Review, an early harbinger of the Academy Awards.

"Slumdog" was originally to be released by Warner Independent Pictures, but Warner Bros. closed that branch last year—leading to dim prospects for "Slumdog," including a potential DVD-only release. But Fox Searchlight picked it up and is sharing costs and revenue with Warner Bros.

The studio, a boutique division of 20th Century Fox owned by News Corp., has been here before. It has engineered the unlikely awards campaigns for small independent films like "Sideways," "Little Miss Sunshine" and "Juno," all of which were nominated for Best Picture by the Academy. None of them won the top film award.

All took on a similar David-verse-Goliath image at the Oscars and went on to make a lot of money. "Sideways" eventually made $72 million, "Little Miss Sunshine" took in $60 million and "Juno" made $143 million.

"Slumdog" is currently in 601 theaters and has never been in more than 614 theaters in its nine weeks of release. (By contrast, "Bride Wars" opened in 3,226 theaters last weekend.)

Still, it has continued, for the most part, to stay among the top 10 box office moneymakers. Last weekend, it earned a $6,206 average per screen, a very good number for a movie that's been out for two months.

The slow, gradual release strategy has been paying dividends for many of this year's awards contenders. Clint Eastwood's "Gran Torino" led the box office this past weekend with a gross of $29 million after several weeks of limited release.

With low-budget awards-contenders like these enjoying box office success, suddenly the prospects of independent film don't look quite so apocalyptic as they did when divisions like Warner Independent and Picturehouse were shuttering.

"It's fantastic for us to have had this kind of platform," said Boyle, whose previous films include "Trainspotting" and "28 Days Later." "It gets journalists all perked up. It works in so many different ways. It's an amazing vehicle for this kind of film—and this kind of film is under pressure, as we know. The indie distribution is in real crisis."

The Globes are far from a perfect predictor of the Oscars, though. And "Slumdog" almost certainly benefited from the more international outlook of the Hollywood Foreign Press voters.

But "Slumdog" no longer seems like much of an underdog.

"'Slumdog' has all the momentum right now. It's the film to beat," said Tom O'Neil, a columnist for the awards Web site TheEnvelope.com. "It's captured Oscar voters' hearts. Many of the voters I've spoken to have watched their DVD screeners six or seven times."

Weeks ago—when such plaudits seemed pure fantasy—Boyle joked of the film's awards chances: "Obviously, we've got to win every single category. Obviously. And put 'Titanic' to sleep for once and for all."

After winning in all four categories it was nominated for at the Globes, that no longer seems quite so farfetched.

'American Idol' back with new tune for season 8

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Dave Della Terza enjoys kicking "American Idol" around on his Web site that encourages viewers to vote for the most awful contestant.

But even Della Terza is rooting for television's top-rated show when it returns for its eighth season Tuesday. The two-hour debut airs at 8 p.m. EST on Fox.

"Last year really bored me. The show seemed really desperate. I want it to go back to being the good, cheesy fun it was," said Della Terza.

The singing contest remained TV's No. 1 program last season but saw a dip in viewership, averaging about 28 million weekly viewers vs. the previous year's nearly 31 million weekly average.

That represents a smaller loss than suffered by many other shows in what proved to be a lackluster 2007-08 season, one disrupted by a writers guild strike. It's also impressive stability for a veteran series.

Those behind "American Idol" express confidence that its drawing power remains intact, but they're tweaking the formula to freshen it and keep the downward trend to a minimum.

Executive producer Ken Warwick concedes the ratings probably will "drop a bit" again this season. But a major overhaul was not considered, he told a teleconference.

"There were no panic changes," Warwick said. "It wasn't, `Oh, my God, we've dropped 7 percent. What are we going to do to change the whole show?' This wouldn't have been on TV for eight years if it wasn't doing it right."

Fox is banking on the show, which last year helped make it TV's most popular broadcast network for the first time with a strong finale in which David Cook bested runner-up David Archuleta.

Walt Disney World in Orlando, Fla., also is betting on the show's continued popularity: The theme park is opening an American Idol Experience attraction next month, allowing visitors to sample the show.

Loyal viewers who tune in this season will easily spot differences in the formula and faces—most notably with a new judge, Grammy-nominated songwriter-producer Kara DioGuardi, joining the original trio of Simon Cowell, Randy Jackson and Paula Abdul.

Cowell, the show's acerbic driving force, takes the role of tiebreaker when the panel locks on whether to keep or dump a contestant. He's both singing DioGuardi's praises but reserving judgment on how her addition will pan out.

"She's written hit songs. She has an opinion, which is very, very important. She talks a lot," Cowell said—and he means as a compliment.

That said, "the panel has a unique chemistry," Cowell added. "I genuinely don't know until I watch the show ... whether this is a good thing or a bad thing."

Della Terza regards DioGuardi with a skeptical eye, and ear.

"She's a really prolific songwriter ... but she's written some terrible songs," he said, singling out former "Idol" contestant Katherine McPhee's "Open Toes," a paean to open-toe shoes, and tunes for Paris Hilton and Ashlee Simpson.

Other changes afoot on "American Idol" include the return of wild-card selections by the judges, allowing them to give contestants snubbed by viewers a second chance, extended Hollywood auditions with singers who survive the early cuts, and behind-the-scenes peeks.

Cowell is looking forward to more contestant backbone, which he says is on display in the taped audition episodes that open the season.

"Where I think we got a little bit stuck last year (was) it was kind of like battle of the blondes, and they all looked the same. ... This year, there seems to be more personality. They're definitely standing up for themselves more, which I like," he said.

DEATH & FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Sairong Beluong Dulei

Born: August 12, 1924
Was called to her eternal rest on January 8, 2009
at the age of 84 years

SHE NOW JOINS HER:
PARENTS: Beluong and Elilai
HUSBAND: Saburo Dulei
SON: Moses 'Mineo' Saburo
GRANDSON: James Tanaka
BROTHERS: Kintaro & Misch Beluong
SISTERS: Hatsko & Reyad Beluong

SHE IS SURVIVED BY:
SONS: Dick Ngotel (Nirang & children) and CalebDulei.
DAUGHTERS: Julie Saburo (Kodep & children), Hana Saburo, and Obirir Saburo(Arthur & children).

She is additionally survived by numerous cousins, nieces, nephews, grandchildren andgreatgrandchildren.

Nightly rosary is being said at 7:00 PM, at San Vicente Church. Last respect will be held on Saturday, January 17, 2009, at Mr. & Mrs. James Miwata Elidechedong's residence in DanDan, from 8:30 AM to 11:00 AM. Mass of Christian Burial will be offered at 1:00PM, at San Vicente Church. Interment will follow at the Mount Carmel Cemetery.

Dinner will be served at Mr. & Mrs. James Miwata Elidechedong's residence in Dandan right after the burial. Everyone is invited.

Thank you
Komkmal Mesaul
The Family

Costars Hudson and Hathaway get along famously

'Bride Wars' is not so much about the romance between a man and a woman but a female buddy picture.

LOS ANGELES TIMES

Kate Hudson and Anne Hathaway are happy to star in a female-driven comedy, "Bride Wars."

By RACHEL ABRAMOWITZ

(C) 2009, LOS ANGELES TIMES

HOLLYWOOD—So who takes longer to get dressed?

That's a no-brainer when the choice lies between Kate Hudson and Anne Hathaway, the two young actresses who play best friends turned battling bridezillas in the new film "Bride Wars," which arrives in theaters Friday.

When the question is posed during an interview with the two leading ladies, Hudson instantly turns to Hathaway, who looks guilty as charged.

"Yes, it's true," says Hathaway, best known as the star of "The Devil Wears Prada" and now "Rachel Getting Married," with self-recognition flashing through her large brown eyes. "I find the outfit, then I'm literally one step from the door and I'll look down and something will catch my eye and I will have to go back and start from scratch. It's not even for me that the results are so great. I just have to find the thing that I'm comfortable with or I'm going to be a basket case all day. I need to know that I've covered all my bases to go out, and Kate is . . ."

"I'll walk out half-naked," interjects Hudson, who first caught the public imagination nearly a decade ago as a trippy groupie in "Almost Famous." "I have this thing, if it takes me longer than 10 minutes to get dressed, I'm not going anywhere. I'm not in the mood," says Hudson. "I'm going to stay in bed and I'm going to watch television and I'm going to walk around the house half-naked because I just don't want clothes on."

Perched side by side on a fancy hotel room couch, the duo are giddy and chatty, so much so that they talk over each other, and to each other, as they discuss their new movie and related tangents—boys, clothes, what makes a movie star and weddings. Periodically, Hudson bursts into song—her whole life appears to have some internal soundtrack, and she could definitely give any jukebox a run for its money. Their outfits more than illustrate their perspectives on dressing, and perhaps on life. The 26-year-old Hathaway is crisp in a black structured sheath, her hair pulled back tight in a soignee ponytail to reveal the luminous white skin and the famed doe eyes. Hudson, 29, is loose and sun-kissed and Californian, wearing what appears to be a blue silk shorts jumpsuit, and unconsciously flipping her long, blond tresses. Both wear stilettos but no stockings.

While weddings are a familiar trope to Hollywood comedies, spawning such films as "Wedding Crashers," "The Wedding Planner" and "Four Weddings and a Funeral," "Bride Wars" is not so much about the romance between a man and a woman. It's a female buddy picture, a counterpoint to the "bromance" films that have swept Hollywood recently, the endless stream of male bonding tales like "Superbad," "Role Models," "Stepbrothers" and "Pineapple Express."

Such is the state of opportunities for young actresses in Hollywood that neither Hudson or Hathaway (whose collective resume includes such hits as "How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days" and the "Princess Diaries" movies) has ever starred in a film opposite a female peer.

"One thing we were drawn to is it's a story about friendship," says Hathaway. "To actually have the story line between two women was just . . . so refreshing. Two movies I grew up loving were `Romy and Michele's High School Reunion' and 'Muriel's Wedding.' I loved those movies and it occurred to me—I haven't been doing this very long and I don't mean to be stepping up on a soapbox or anything—but I've read a lot of different scripts since I've become an actress and I've never come across a female buddy comedy before. Never."

"It's really rare," agrees Hudson."Female comedies, female-driven movies are hard to get made."

"Sex in the City," as they point out, started on the small screen, where women's relationships—in their many different incarnations on shows as variant as "Golden Girls," "Desperate Housewives" and "Grey's Anatomy"—have long made ratings soar. Taking a page from her mom Goldie Hawn, who started one of the first actress-run production companies, Hudson is also a producer on this film and was anxious to get it made. She also helped bring Hathaway on board. In the film, Hudson plays the super Type-A Liv, the bossy corporate litigator, while Hathaway dons the part of Emma, the vulnerable, less confident schoolteacher.

It's an opposites-attract relationship, and their real-life chemistry evokes a similar vibe, though they are both world-class talkers.

"Annie will talk about her character," Hudson says, often delving deep into a back story she's concocted for Emma, like the time their two characters were "in New Jersey in a mall. You're in some weird place that her character has been to, which is not in the script, which is not in the movie."

By contrast, Hudson starts out talking about their characters and ends up relating it to a "personal story, and I'll keep talking. Somebody asks us a question, and then we'll both keep talking till someone tells us to stop."

Hathaway, who's been laughing through Hudson's spiel, has a succinct rejoinder: "Yes."

Also, Hudson has actually planned a wedding before, when she married her ex-husband, rocker Chris Robinson of the Black Crowes, on New Year's Eve 2000 in Aspen, Colo. And she found out she was nominated for a Golden Globe for "Almost Famous" just days before. "I remember nobody cared." She pauses, then breaks out laughing. "Just kidding," she says.

Of her wedding planning, she says: "I only felt stressed one time when I was doing `Saturday Night Live' and I was saying to my friend, I started complaining how Chris wasn't helping me with anything and my mom was driving me nuts. Then you realize that's just the nature of being stressed out. It's not them. It's you because you want to be perfect for everybody."

"How long were you engaged?" asks Hathaway.

"Two seconds. We got married after nine months, and engaged after four and a half," says Hudson, whose marriage to Robinson lasted seven and a half years but ended in 2007. "He's still there.""I love the way you talk about him," says Hathaway. "You talk about him like he's your best friend."

"It's hard. Marriage is work and divorce is work and it always takes more work to not like somebody to keep that up," says Hudson.

Hathaway was famously involved in a long-term relationship with Italian businessman Raffaello Follieri, which imploded last summer around the time Follieri was arrested and later convicted of fraud.

Hathaway insists that she's never given much thought to the kind of wedding she'd like, though when pressed, she says, "knowing me, I'd like it to be outdoors. I imagine trees and tents, and very, very laid back, probably pretty small and pretty intimate I'd want people that I loved and trusted. I think I should find the guy first."

"I think Anne would have a `Midsummer Night's Dream' wedding, really pretty and woodsy, ethereal," interjects Hudson.

"Any sign of hanging tulle, you'll be like 'Ha.' Any fairy swirl, you'll be like `I told you so.' " says Hathaway, chortling. "It feels far away regardless. It's been a lot of lessons recently and not enough life. I feel like I'm in a fascinating moment where everything is a lesson. I want to do that alone," she says. Rather than pursue new relationships, "I want to delve more deeply into the ones I already have, the people I know and trust, and delve more deeply into myself."

That's the reality underlying the film "Bride Wars." Two of the most eligible women on the planet are without steady guys for the moment. By choice.

"For the first time of my life, for a bit of a stretch, I've been totally without that distraction," says Hudson, who admittedly loves being in a relationship and has been romantically linked by the tabloids to Owen Wilson and Lance Armstrong. "I'd never recognized what I was, alone as an adult . . .And it's nice to discover that about yourself."

Hathaway relates. "I am that girl who goes off with the guy and then looks back and goes, 'I have all these other relationships. Why did I neglect them?' The concept of always needing to be together—that's such bad advice. You need to keep your sense of self, your life, your background, your history."

"That's what our movie is about," says Hudson.

"Exactly," says Hathaway.

"You get carried away by all these things, the relationships, the wedding, the dreams," says Hudson. "And then suddenly, you go, 'Wait a minute, I need my girlfriends!' "

Lawyer: Winehouse's husband to file for divorce

AP

In this Jan. 10, 2008 file photo, actress Jennifer Love Hewitt poses on the press line at the "Awards Season Diamond Fashion Show Preview" presented by the Diamond Information Center and In Style magazine in Beverly Hills, Calif.

LONDON (AP)—A lawyer for Amy Winehouse's jailed husband said Monday his client will be seeking a divorce on the grounds of the soul diva's alleged infidelity. Attorney Henri Brandman said he had been instructed by Blake Fielder-Civil "to commence divorce proceedings on the grounds of Amy's adultery."

Winehouse and Fielder-Civil married in Miami in May 2007, but he was arrested six months later over an assault. In July he was sentenced to 27 months in jail for beating up a bar manager and then offering him a bribe to keep quiet about it.

Fielder-Civil was released into a drug rehab center in November but sent back to prison weeks later for breaching his bail conditions.

Winehouse shot to stardom with the multi-Grammy-winning album "Back to Black" in 2006 and has a fortune estimated by the Sunday Times at 10 million pounds ($15 million). But her music has been overshadowed by reports of drug use, run-ins with the law and her tempestuous marriage.

During concert appearances last year, Winehouse often exhorted fans to call for the release of "my Blake." But she has been linked by tabloid newspapers to other men and recently has been photographed on holiday in the Caribbean with an alleged new beau, Josh Bowman.

Winehouse's spokesman did not immediately return a call seeking comment.

Lahiri, Wolff finalists for Story Prize

NEW YORK (AP)—Jhumpa Lahiri, Tobias Wolff and Joe Meno are the finalists for the fifth annual Story Prize for outstanding short fiction.

Lahiri was cited for "Unaccustomed Earth," her first collection of short stories since the Pulitzer Prize-winning "Interpreter of Maladies"; Wolff, best known for the memoir "This Boy's Life," was nominated for "Our Story Begins"; and Meno, whose books include "The Boy Detective Fails," was a finalist for "Demons in the Spring."

The winner, who receives $20,000, will be announced March 4. Previous honorees include Mary Gordon and Edwidge Danticat.

Taylor Swift to guest star on CBS drama 'CSI'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—CBS says pop star Taylor Swift will appear on an episode of "CSI: Crime Scene Investigation." Swift will play a teenage girl whose family manages a seedy Las Vegas motel and who undergoes personal changes that have tragic consequences. CBS didn't announce the air date for the "CSI" episode.

The 19-year-old country crossover singer was 2008's best-selling artist, with more than 4 million albums sold. Her sophomore effort, "Fearless," debuted at No. 1 and includes the hit single "Love Story."

"CSI," which airs 9 p.m. EST Thursday, says goodbye this week to star William Petersen. Laurence Fishburne has joined the series as a new forensics investigator.

Swift

Court grants Love Hewitt restraining order

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Jennifer Love Hewitt has won a restraining order against a 62-year-old man she says has been stalking her.

Court records show a judge in Burbank on Monday granted Hewitt's request for a three-year restraining order against David Nolte. The actress stated in a court petition that Nolte recently sold his home in Colorado and moved to Los Angeles to be closer to Hewitt.

Documents also include dozens of letters allegedly sent by Nolte, describing violent and sexual fantasies involving Hewitt.

The actress wrote that she became more fearful of Nolte after he appeared at her mother's house in late December. Court records do not indicate whether Nolte has an attorney.

Hewitt currently stars on CBS' "The Ghost Whisperer."

In this Jan. 10, 2008 file photo, actress Jennifer Love Hewitt poses on the press line at the "Awards Season Diamond Fashion Show Preview" presented by the Diamond Information Center and In Style magazine in Beverly Hills, Calif.

AP

NY director accused of attacking wannabe actresses

NEW YORK (AP)—At least four women have accused the Academy Award-winning songwriter of "You Light Up My Life" of luring them to his home and sexually assaulting them while they auditioned for movie roles, police said.

Police are investigating whether director Joseph Brooks, who won an Oscar for Best Original Song for the 1977 Debby Boone ballad, advertised upcoming film roles on Internet postings as a ploy to assault women.

When a woman responded to an audition call, the 70-year-old Brooks would tell her she'd be playing a prostitute and would have her drink shots and perform sex acts on him, police said. Some women believe they might have been drugged, police said.

At least four incidents are alleged to have happened in March and May 2008, police spokesman John Sweeney said. One woman told authorities she had sex with Brooks after drinking wine with him, Sweeney said.

A woman from Seattle said she responded to an ad and after she arrived in New York, Brooks demanded she have sex with him, Sweeney said. Another woman told police Brooks sodomized her, Sweeney said.

Brooks hasn't been charged, Sweeney said.

Telephone calls to Brooks' attorney, Jeff Hoffman, weren't immediately returned Monday. There was no telephone listing for Brooks at the Manhattan home address provided by police.

Brooks also wrote and directed the romantic comedy "You Light Up My Life," for which the song was composed. The movie stars Didi Conn as Laurie Robinson, a comedian who dreams of being an actress and has a one-night stand with a director.

Woman wrestles with friends' objections to her idea of fun

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I am a female who is "over 21." I have always been a tomboy. I love to wrestle with my 200-pound boyfriend. Our struggles are vigorous, but never violent, and always end with a kiss or more.

My friends are horrified. They say I could be injured and that any man who would physically "fight" a woman is a potential wife-beater or worse.

So many people have warned me to "watch out" that now I'm beginning to wonder. To me, it's a good way to have fun and burn off calories. What's your take on this, Abby?

LOVES TO TUSSLE IN GEORGIA

DEAR LOVES TO TUSSLE: If you are the one initiating these "fights," then I doubt that your boyfriend is a potential wife-beater or worse. (If it were the other way around, I might be concerned.) What you have described sounds more like foreplay than abuse. As long as you both enjoy it and no one becomes injured, what the two of you do is nobody's business, so keep it private.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Have you ever received an invitation for a baby shower that states, "There will be a raffle. All proceeds will go to the family to help with the cost of raising another baby"?

Abby, this is the couple's third girl in less than four years and her third baby shower. These are planned pregnancies. The woman's husband earns $75,000 a year. Prospective guests are also instructed to go online where the baby gift registry is posted.

I am completely at a loss for words after receiving this invite. Any thoughts?

TAKEN ABACK IN WYOMING

DEAR TAKEN ABACK: You have been fairly warned about the intent of the event. Because you are turned off, the word I am suggesting is "Regrets."

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I don't know what to do anymore. It seems like I hate everything, but I don't think I'm depressed.

I hate working, but love my salary. I hate my co-workers, but realize they're probably no worse than any other workplace. Nothing excites me, nothing motivates me. I don't like anything in particular and have never known what I wanted to do with my life. I don't want to be married or have children. I often wonder what the point of living is. I feel like I'm living every day just to get to the end of life.

I'm sure I'm not alone. Please help me and others out there who seem to have lost hope.

NOT HAPPY IN CANADA

DEAR NOT HAPPY: Whether you recognize it or not, you may be depressed. As anyone who has read this column knows, there is medical and psychiatric help for depression, which sometimes has a physical cause.

However, as I have read and re-read your letter, I am struck by the listlessness and boredom it conveys. Perhaps you would be happier if you dwelt less on yourself and the emptiness you feel, and spent some time helping people who are less fortunate than you. Leo Rosten once wrote that the purpose of life is to matter, to be productive, to have it make a difference that you lived at all—using the talents that God has given you for the betterment of others.

Please consider what I have said because you are spending far too much time thinking about what you're missing, and frankly may need a verbal kick in the fanny.

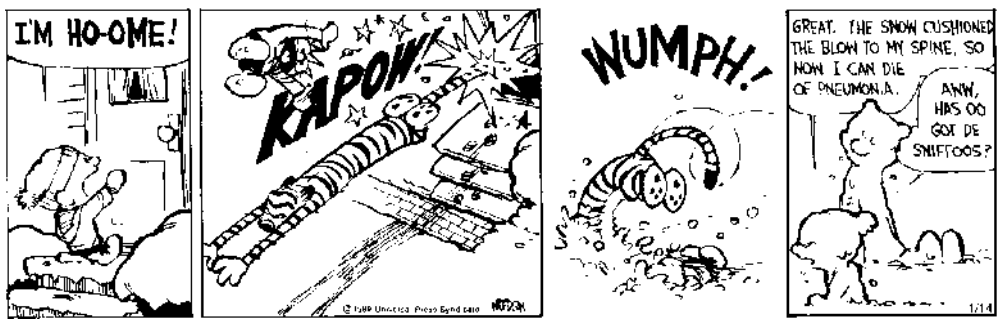
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

Pastimes

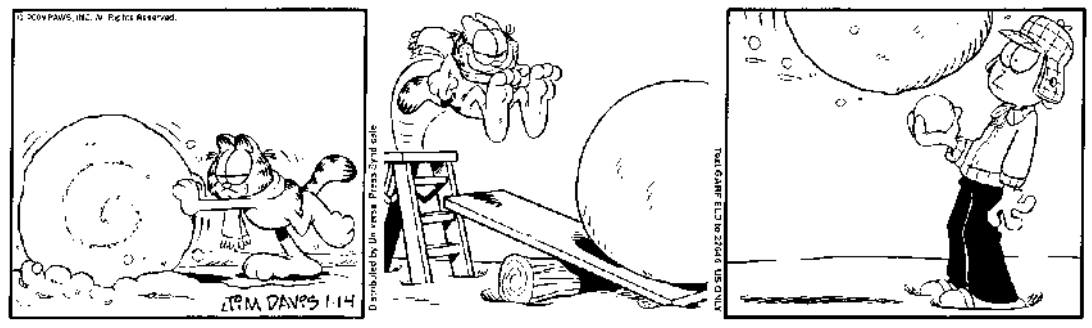
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


I'M HO-OME!
KAPOW!
WUMPH!
GREAT. THE SNOW CUSHIONED THE BLOW TO MY SPINE, SO NOW I CAN DIE OF PNEUMONIA.
AWW, HAS OO GOT DE SNIFFOOS?
1/14

Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

I'VE DECIDED TO BOYCOTT THIS ACTOR'S MOVIES BECAUSE I'M FED UP WITH HIS GOOFY POLITICAL STATEMENTS.
THAT'S TRACII HIM.
AREN'T YOU BEING A TAD NARROW-MINDED.
IS IT OKAY TO BOYCOTT HIM BECAUSE HE'S DATING THE ACTRESS I'M IN LOVE WITH?
WELL SURE! THAT'S DIFFERENT.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Ventilate
4 Be a couch potato
7 Peru's capital
8 Partook at a banquet
10 Man of morals?
11 Invest officially
13 Not mincing words
16 — out a living
17 Find
18 Water barrier
19 Cohort
20 Actress Sorvino
21 Diarist Samuel
23 Some silverware
25 Go limp
26 Strictly entre —
27 Blackbird
28 Off the perpendicular
30 Upper limit
33 Childhood game played in a circle
36 Buccaneer
37 Not as plentiful
38 Eldrick Woods
39 Sicilian spouter
40 Witness
41 Kid's query

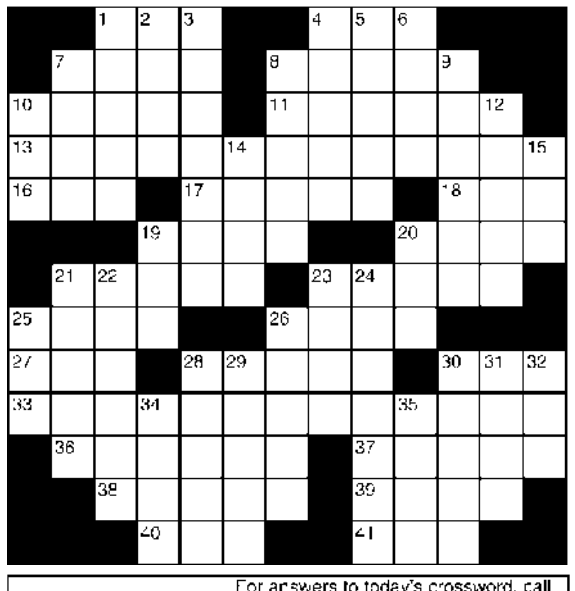
DOWN

1 Supermarket section
2 "No harm done"
3 Apace
4 Esthetic taste
5 Finish
6 Paraphernalia
7 Plumbing problem
8 Pooch
9 Small antelope
10 Noshed
12 Approaches
14 Rock guitarist Lofgren
15 Singer Sumac
19 Likely
20 "— Doubtfire"
21 Centerfold, maybe
22 Draw forth
23 Traditional music style
24 Got too big for
25 Bankroll
26 More pleasant
28 Old saw
29 Private student
30 Hackneyed
31 Cruising
32 Apiece
34 Singer-actor Kristofferson
35 Swearword

Solution time: 21 mins.

A	B	E	T		S	P	Y		T	O	S	S
M	F	M	C		I	L	O		A	O	N	F
M	A	I	D		S	C	U	I	H	P	A	W
O	L	T	D	F	A	W		W	I	S	P	S
			L	O			H	I				
A	B	B	F	Y		S	A	C	I	N	A	W
B	A	R			B	C	X			E	W	E
C	H	O	C	T	A	W		P	H	O	N	E
			H	O	G		G	A	Y			
A	D	G	C	N		I	A	N	D	S	A	W
M	O	O	S	E		A	W		R	A	J	A
E	D	G	E		E	L	K		A	F	A	R
N	E	O	N		T	C	Y		S	E	X	Y

Yesterday's answer 1-14



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: LL Cool J, 41; Emily Watson, 42; Faye Dunaway, 68; Andy Rooney, 90

Happy Birthday: Push to finish off whatever is unfinished. It will be getting more for less that will count in these economic times. As long as you stick to a budget, you will do fine. A pending settlement or contract can be closed but only if you are persistent and fight hard for what you deserve. Your numbers are 6, 11, 19, 21, 29, 37, 41

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Your hard work will eventually pay off but, if you are expecting rewards now, you will be disappointed. Do what you can for people who can help you in the future. Look at the big picture. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): If you are willing to stick to your plans and not allow anyone to tempt you to deviate and go over budget, you will succeed. You must be strict and stick to a safe schedule. ✪✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Don't let emotional matters stand in your way. Focus beyond if you want to accomplish. Look at your options and learn by past mistakes and you will make the right decision. Someone you used to regard highly may be able to shed light on a situation. ✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Take action instead of waiting to see what everyone else is going to do. A change may not be your idea of a good time but, once you make the move, you will realize it was long overdue. Emotional matters can be dealt with. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Impulsive responses will not get you what you want. Sit back for a change and let others make the first move. A deal can be complete if you take an approach that is different from what your competition is offering. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): You'll be up and down and emotionally erratic if you don't put things in perspective. Rely on your practical sense to get you through whatever dilemma you face. Once you clear up any uncertainty, everything will work out. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): If you can size down or cut corners, it will ease the stress created by overspending. An idea you have may be more marketable than you realize. Talk to someone with experience and you will get good solid advice. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Don't trust anyone, not even the people closest to you. Intentional or not, someone will cause you grief by letting unauthorized information leak. A change in a personal relationship will be emotional but to your benefit. 4 stars

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You may have to take on a second job or develop a service that is in demand. Taking a chance or overspending in the process will defeat the purpose. Put travel and dealing with superiors on hold for now. ✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): You have to go where the money is. It's time for you to take advantage of the situation —as bad as it may be for someone else, it can be a gold mine for you if you are swift to pick up the pieces. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Contracts, legal matters and settlements can all be put to rest if you follow through with what's required of you. Love may be going through some uncertain times but talks should help to rectify any problems you face. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Someone may withhold important information you require to make a decision. Don't let anyone force you to move forward when you aren't certain or ready. Emotional issues will surface, causing confusion and internal problems. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are sensitive, emotional and caring but aren't taken in by anyone who wants a free ride. You are a thinker and a doer. You are discerning.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

2	8	9						
1			2			7		
6		7		3		2	9	
	9			2				
		6	5		8	3		
				4			1	
		4		1		8		3
	7				6			5
8						4	6	9

Difficulty Level ★★★ 1/14

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

7	2	1	5	8	3	9	4	6
8	9	6	4	1	7	3	5	2
3	5	4	9	6	2	7	1	8
5	3	7	1	2	4	6	8	9
4	6	9	7	5	8	1	2	3
2	1	8	3	9	6	5	7	4
9	4	3	8	7	5	2	6	1
6	8	5	2	3	1	4	9	7
1	7	2	6	4	9	8	3	5

Difficulty Level ★★

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WONDERWORD©

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

BACKSTAGE AT THE BOLSHOI **Solution: 8 letters**

S	S	E	I	D	R	E	V	N	I	D	O	R	O	B
W	U	E	C	M	C	R	E	A	T	E	O	P	R	A
A	O	C	A	N	U	C	I	S	U	M	F	A	F	I
N	M	C	A	S	I	S	Q	U	E	R	Z	D	U	C
L	A	D	S	T	O	R	S	O	F	I	N	E	N	O
A	F	I	A	O	R	N	P	O	L	A	N	R	E	N
K	A	D	N	A	M	A	R	D	R	E	O	S	V	Y
E	P	X	T	I	P	M	P	G	C	G	I	R	M	R
S	L	O	O	H	C	S	A	S	I	R	S	O	A	O
R	A	Ⓢ	O	D	E	C	U	D	O	R	P	K	L	T
A	Y	T	Ⓔ	P	D	A	U	B	A	N	N	E	Y	R
E	O	A	I	Ⓣ	E	A	T	P	G	I	G	L	A	E
H	S	G	N	I	Ⓢ	R	M	E	L	T	S	A	R	P
E	T	E	L	L	A	B	A	G	R	E	L	M	R	E
R	A	H	M	A	N	I	N	O	F	F	L	O	O	R

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Adam, Aleko, Balcony, Ballet, Boris, Borodin, Brazil, Create, Dance, Drama, Emilier, Famous, Floor, Glinka, Grand, Igor, Mardbox, May, Moscow, Music, Mussorgsky, Opera, Perform, Photo, Play, Prince, Produce, Puccini, Rahmaninoff, Rehearse, Repertory, Romeo, Russia, Scene, School, Season, Sets, Sings, Song, Spartacus, Stage, Swan Lake, Theater, Tsar, Venue, Verdi

Yesterday's Answer: Spettacola

CLASSIFIED ADS

WHATZIT Solution: Alice Through The Looking Glass

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D.O.B	:	July 22, 1964
Passport No.	:	P1854059
Contact No.	:	483-8085

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Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

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Saipan Tribune

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM
P.O. BOX 501370 CK, SAIPAN, MP 96950
HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
PROMOTIONAL & OPEN COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION ANNOUNCEMENT

It is the policy of the Board of Education, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, that the Public School Personnel System shall be applied and administered according to the principles of equal employment opportunity as defined by the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Public Law 6 - 10, regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, handicap or place of origin. Applicants for this position must be a U.S. Citizen or be eligible and authorized to work in the U.S., including the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Announcement No: **PSS-2008-081** Application & Employment Type: **Non - Certified**
Position Title: **ARCHITECTURAL TECHNICIAN II (Re-Announcement I)**
Pay Level/Step: **27 / 01 - 06** Per Annum Salary: **$19,511.46 - $24,889.35**
Opening Date: **December 30, 2008** Closing Date: **January 14, 2009**
Location: **PSS – CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS (CIP)**
Benefits: Salary Commensurate with qualifications and experience, plus excellent benefits (including Life Insurance, Retirement Benefits, and Paid Leave/Holidays
Minimum Requirements:

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***Detailed job description with qualification requirements can be obtained at PSS Human Resources Office at the 3rd Retirement Building, Capitol Hill, or download it online www.pss.cnmi.mp/humanresources**

INTERESTED APPLICANTS MAY OBTAIN A DETAILED JOB DESCRIPTION WITH QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS AND APPLICATION FORMS AT THE PSS HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE AT THE 3rd RETIREMENT BUILDING, CAPITOL HILL. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS MUST BE ATTACHED TO COMPLETE APPLICATION FORMS: (1) COPY OF DIPLOMA/DEGREE, (2) TRANSCRIPTS, (3) POLICE CLEARANCE (FROM PLACE OF RESIDENCE FOR PAST SIX MONTHS), (4) VERIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT LETTER, (5) RESUME, AND (6) TEACHING CERTIFICATE (IF APPLICABLE).COMPLETED APPLICATIONS AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTS MAY BE SUBMITTED TO THE HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE OR MAILED TO: CNMI PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM, ATTN: HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE, RETIREMENT BUILDING; THIRD FLOOR, P.O. BOX 501370 CK, SAIPAN, MP 96950, and TEL. #. (670) 237-3051, FAX # (670) 664-3707. ALSO VISIT http://www.pss.cnmi.mp/humanresources ON THE WORLDWIDE WEB.

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Colts coach Tony Dungy retires

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Tony Dungy always considered football just a career path.

Not his life's mission.

On Monday, Dungy began the transition from head coach to full-time dad and devoted volunteer by announcing his retirement after seven years leading the Indianapolis Colts.

"We just felt this was the right time," Dungy said. "Don't shed any tears for me. I got to live a dream most people don't get to live."

The move triggered a succession plan Indianapolis put in place a year ago, making Jim Caldwell, the associate head coach, Dungy's replacement.

But the culmination of a 31-year NFL career, which started with Dungy winning a Super Bowl ring as a player in Pittsburgh and ended two years after he became the first black coach to hoist the Lombardi Trophy, brought out some rare emotional moments from the usually stoic Dungy.

"My wife Lauren told me to bring some Kleenex. I thought I would make it a little farther than the first sentence," Dungy said, his voice cracking.

He told owner Jim Irsay of his decision Sunday.

"And we spent about 2 1/2 hours crying," Dungy said. "But I had a real peace about it."

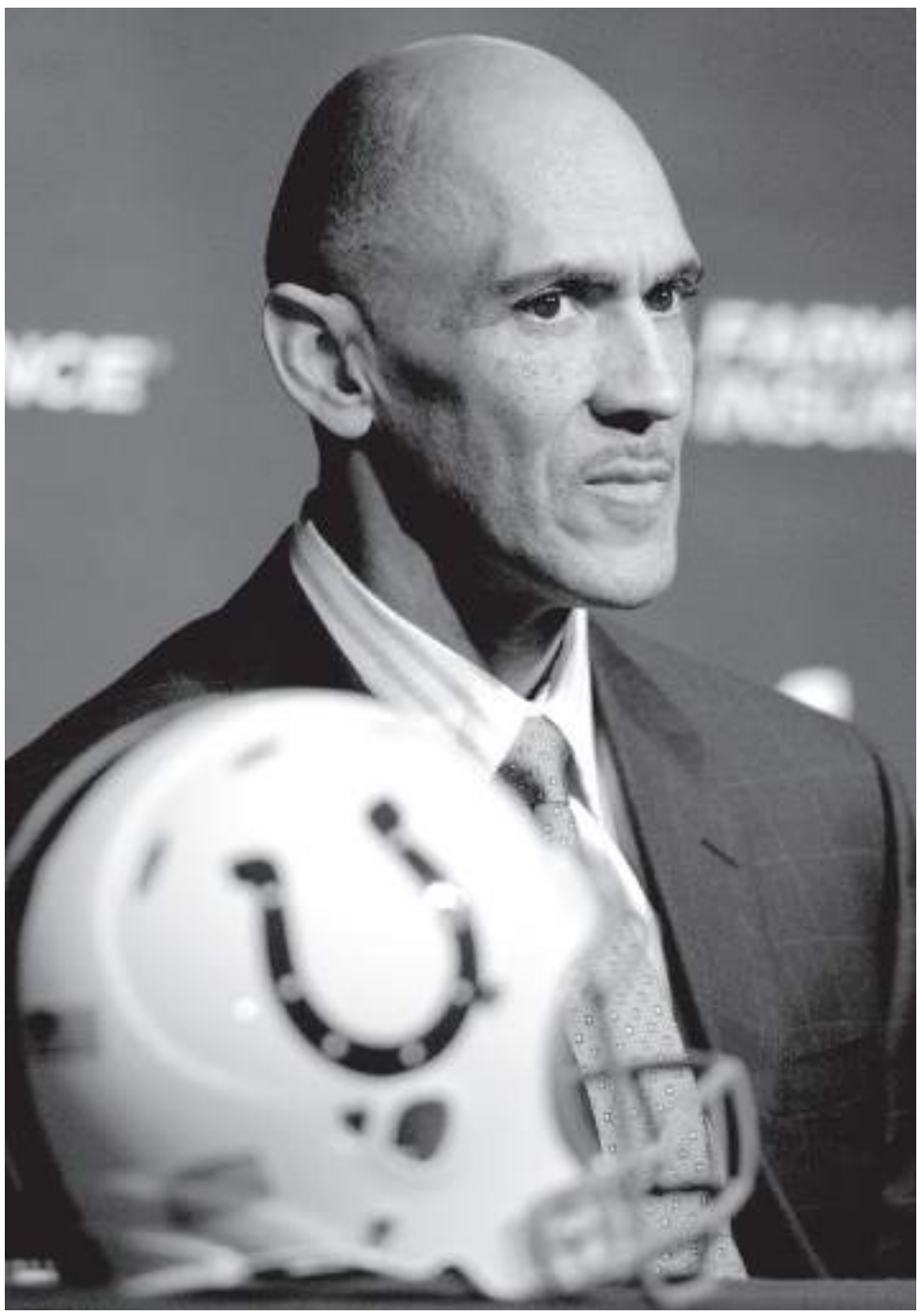
The 53-year-old Dungy informed his staff of the decision Monday morning, then met with some players after the traditional one-week waiting period ended. Dungy and his wife, Lauren, spent the last five years discussing whether he should continue coaching.

Receivers coach Clyde Christensen, who served as Dungy's assistant the last 13 years, said he was 95 percent certain Dungy would return as recently as Friday. Others, like safety Melvin Bullitt, were still hopeful Monday afternoon that Dungy would change his mind.

Unlike the previous four years, when Dungy ultimately decided to continue coaching, he decided it was time to stay home and work in the community.

Perhaps for good.

"I think I've got a responsibility to be home a little bit more, be available to my family a little bit more and do some things to help make our country better," Dungy said. "I don't know what that is right now, but we'll see."



AP

Indianapolis Colts coach Tony Dungy listens as team owner Jimmy Irsay announces that Dungy will retire in Indianapolis, Monday, Jan. 12, 2009.

Dungy made a remarkable impact around the league. In an era when there were few black head coaches, Dungy helped open the door to rising stars and a growing number of minority candidates. Among those from his Tampa Bay staff who have had head coaching jobs are Herm Edwards, now with Kansas City, Chicago's Lovie Smith, Pittsburgh's Mike Tomlin and former Detroit coach Rod Marinelli.

Dungy also set league records for most consecutive playoff seasons (10) and consecutive 12-win seasons (six), and leaves with the highest average of regular-season victories of any coach in league history (10.7).

And those around the league acknowledged Dungy's legacy will be the way he won.

"People often say that teams reflect their head coach, and that can be said of Tony Dungy's teams, which are consistent winners every single year," New England coach Bill Belichick said. "Tony has been such a fixture in this league that his absence will take some getting used to."

Dungy has always considered faith, family and football to be his priorities.

But he always wound up back on the sideline. Last year, he returned to help open the Colts' new stadium after Irsay agreed to let Dungy commute home on his private jet.

Although Dungy said the travel was not a burden and enjoyed this season, clearly, the time away from home was something that tugged at Dungy's heart.

Even Irsay sensed this would be Dungy's last go-around before their Sunday night meeting.

"I knew this day would come some time, it always does in life," Irsay said, tearing up. "It's been an incredible journey, and as an owner, I think, you dream of having the kind of relationship with a head coach that I've had with Tony."

The decision came a little more than a week after the Colts lost their first playoff game for the second straight season, and it ends a coaching career in which Dungy reached one NFC championship game and two AFC championship games.

In addition, Dungy finished his six-year tenure in Tampa and his seven-year stint in Indy as the career leader in victories for both franchises, finishing with an overall record of 148-79.

But the critics always questioned Dungy's postseason numbers. In Tampa, his adopted hometown, Dungy went 2-4 in the playoffs and failed to reach the Super Bowl. He was 7-6 in Indy, failing to advance past the first game four times.

"You always think you can win a few more," Dungy said. "But I won't look back and think that we could have won one more if I had put more time in."

While the city of Tampa reveres Dungy for turning a moribund franchise into a perennial playoff team, Indy's bond with Dungy was just as strong.

The city applauded Dungy's achievement when he finally won the Super Bowl and rallied around Dungy's family when he endured his greatest tragedy—his son's suicide in 2005.

"His biggest legacy will be all the people around the country who he's inspired to be better and to deal with some of life's tragedies in a manner that gives people a lot of strength," Edwards said. "What he went through with his son and how he handled it, was something that says a lot about Tony, his faith and what he stands for."

What's next for Dungy is unclear. He has been involved for years in prison ministries, with Family First and as part of All-Pro Dads.

"Where my heart is, is really with our young men right now," Dungy said. "We have so many guys that didn't grow up like me, didn't have their dad there and that's something I'm very, very interested in."

He also believes the Colts will continue to win under Caldwell, who takes over after spending the past eight seasons on Dungy's staff. Caldwell spent seven of those seasons, one in Tampa, as the quarterbacks coach before being elevated to associate head coach last January.

Caldwell's only other head coaching experience came at Wake Forest, where he went 26-63 from 1993-2000.

But it will take more than wins and losses to fill Dungy's shoes.

"Tony Dungy taught us all how to handle triumph and tragedy with dignity and grace," NFL commissioner Roger Goodell said. "Although we will miss him, Tony is a great man and his impact will be part of the NFL forever."

Pierce leads Boston to OT win over Raptors

BOSTON (AP)—Paul Pierce scored nine of his season-high 39 points in overtime as the Boston Celtics beat the Toronto Raptors for the second time in a row, 115-109 Monday.

One day after Ray Allen's 36 points led Boston to a 94-88 win in Toronto, Pierce led a comeback from a 10-point deficit midway through the third quarter and carried the Celtics to their second straight win after they lost four in a row.

Pierce also had nine rebounds, while Kevin Garnett added 20 points and 12 rebounds. Andrea Bargnani, whose 3-pointer with 1 second left sent the game into overtime tied at 93, led the Raptors with 23 points, and Chris Bosh had 18 points and 11 rebounds.

Bucks 97, Wizards 91

At Washington, Michael Redd scored 29 points, a healthy Andrew Bogut added 18 points and 10 rebounds, and Washington blew another fourth-quarter lead.

Trading baskets down the stretch with Wizards guard Nick Young _ who scored a career-high 30 _ Redd helped Milwaukee overcome a deficit that was 13 points in the second quarter, 11 at halftime and five entering the final period.

After Young made a 16-foot fadeaway jumper to pull Washington within 90-89, Redd answered with a 3-pointer with less than 1 1/2 minutes left. Young missed a 3 as the shotclock expired on Washington's next possession, and that was that.

It's the 12th time this season the Eastern Conference-worst Wizards lost a game after leading in the fourth quarter.

Trail Blazers 109, Bulls 95

At Chicago, Travis Outlaw scored a season-high 33 points and Greg Oden had 17 points and 13 rebounds as Portland beat Chicago.

It was a good start to the week for the Trail Blazers, who were coming off a rather chaotic one. They found themselves in an old, familiar spot—the center of controversy—for sending an e-mail to teams threatening legal action if they signed former forward Darius Miles, but the current players are doing a good job ignoring any distractions.

Drew Gooden led Chicago with 22 points and nine rebounds, and Ben Gordon scored 17 points. Deng added 14 points in 22 minutes off the bench but was 3-for-10 from the field after missing eight games with a sprained left ankle.

Jazz 120, Pacers 113

At Salt Lake City, Mehmet Okur scored a career-high 43 points and Utah held off a late rally to down Indiana.

Andrei Kirilenko scored 23 points and pulled down 12 rebounds and Deron Williams added 11 assists and 23 points, including a late 3-pointer to help the Jazz finally put away the Pacers.

Indiana had trailed by 20 late in the third quarter, but would not let the Jazz clinch it until the final minute.

Danny Granger had 30 points and seven assists, one night after tying his career high with 42 points in a loss at Golden State.

Nets 103, Thunder 99, OT

At East Rutherford, New Jersey, rookie Brook Lopez scored a career-high 31 points and pulled down 13 rebounds as New Jersey edged Oklahoma City.

Vince Carter had 21 while Devin Harris, back after missing three of the previous four games with a hamstring injury, had 17. Keyon Dooling had 14, most coming early in the fourth quarter as the Nets earned a fourth straight home win after starting the season 5-12 in New Jersey.

Kevin Durant had 26 points for the Thunder, who fell to 6-33, and 2-17 on the road.

Russell Westbrook had 17 points, Jeff Green finished with 15 points and 10 rebounds, former Net Nenad Krstic had 12 points and Earl Watson scored 11 points.

Knicks 101, Hornets 95

At New Orleans, David Lee scored 24 points and New York ended a three-game losing streak with a win over New Orleans.

Quentin Richardson and Al Harrington each hit 3-pointers inside the final 1:14 to ensure the Knicks withstood a furious Hornets rally that trimmed a 14-point lead down to three late in the game.

Harrington finished with 20 points, while Wilson Chandler scored 19 points, hitting a jumper with 2:07 left and a driving layup soon after to help keep the Hornets at bay.

David West had 25 points and 14 rebounds for the Hornets, but was 6-of-20 from the field. Chris Paul added 23 points for New Orleans.

Henderson, Rice elected to Hall of Fame

NEW YORK (AP)—Rickey Henderson dashed into the Hall of Fame on his first try, Jim Rice made it with a final swing. It's hard to imagine their induction speeches will have much in common, either. "I'm going to leave all the stories to Rickey," Rice said, confirming that his remarks in Cooperstown this summer are likely to match his personality. "Believe me, it's going to be short and quick. I don't think you need to go there and talk for 15 or 20 minutes when you can get right to the point."

That never stopped Henderson—but neither did opposing pitchers or catchers during his 25-year career.

The undisputed standard for leadoff hitters, Henderson received 94.8 percent of the vote from the Baseball Writers' Association of America in balloting announced Monday, well above the 75 percent needed.

Rice, among the game's most feared sluggers in the late 1970s and early 1980s, got 76.4 percent in his 15th and final year on the ballot after falling just shy with 72.2 percent last year.

"The only thing I can say is I'm glad it's over with," the Boston outfielder said. "I'm in there and they can't take it away."

Henderson, baseball's career leader in runs scored and stolen bases, became the 44th player elected in his first year of eligibility. Rice was only the third elected by the BBWAA in his final year, joining Red Ruffing (1967) and Ralph Kiner (1975).

The pair will be inducted into the Hall during ceremonies on July 26 in Cooperstown, N.Y. They'll be joined by former Yankees and Indians second baseman Joe Gordon, elected posthumously last month by the Veterans Committee.

"I feel great about it. It's been a long time coming," Henderson said. "I was nervous, waiting."

Henderson spoke on a conference call before boarding a flight to New York. He was rushing right along, even on this day.

Only fitting.

Next up, his highly anticipated induction speech. Known for his confounding comments, Henderson has a penchant for referring to himself in the third person—at any point during an amusing stream of sometimes indecipherable chatter.

"It's really just an honor to me. I'm really just spaced out," he said. "I haven't really thought about what I'm going to say."

Henderson was picked on 511 of 539 ballots and Rice was selected on 412, just above the 405 needed.

Rice received only 29.8 percent of the vote in 1995, when he appeared on the ballot for the first time. He initially topped 50 percent in 2000 and reached 64.8 percent in 2006—the highest percentage for a player who wasn't elected in a later year was 63.4 by Gil Hodges in 1983, his final time on the ballot.

Some thought Rice's prickly personality and curt relationship with reporters during his playing career helped keep him out of the Hall all those years.

"I don't think I was difficult to deal with for writers. I think the writers were difficult to me," he said. "I wasn't going to badmouth my teammates. When you start talking about my teammates or what goes on outside baseball, I couldn't do that.

"I don't know why it took me so long. I don't even want to think about it," he added. "I'm just happy I'm in and that's what I'm going to cherish."

What did he learn all these years?

"Be patient and wait until the last out," Rice said. "I guess everything was just timing, because my numbers have not changed over the last 14 years."

Andre Dawson fell 44 votes short with 67 percent. He was followed by Bert Blyleven (62.7 percent), Lee Smith (44.5), Jack Morris (44.0), Tommy John (31.7) and Tim Raines (22.6). John appeared on the ballot for the final time.

Mark McGwire, stigmatized by accusations he used performance-enhancing drugs, received 118 votes (21.9 percent) in his third year of eligibility, down from the 128 votes he got in each of his first two tries.

Henderson, who played with McGwire in Oakland, said the first baseman was one of the best people he's ever been around.

"He played the game the right way to me," Henderson said. "I feel he deserves to be in the Hall of Fame."

Henderson, the 1990 AL MVP, was a 10-time All-Star who swiped 1,406 bases, one shy of 50 percent more than Lou Brock, who is in second place with 938. Henderson batted .279 with 297 homers, 1,115 RBIs, 2,190 walks and 2,295 runs. He owns the modern-day season record with 130 steals in 1982, and the career mark with 81 leadoff homers. He played for Oakland, the Yankees, Toronto, San Diego, Anaheim, the Mets, Seattle, Boston and the Dodgers.

Henderson wanted to be a football star before his mother persuaded him to give pro baseball a try, figuring it offered a better chance at a long career.

If it were up to Henderson, now 50, he'd still be playing ball.

"They said I have to be retired to go in the Hall of Fame," he said. "Maybe they give me that day or two that I come back and it wouldn't mess up anything."

Henderson wasn't sure which team's cap will go on his Hall of Fame plaque. He gets some say in the matter, but ultimately it's the Hall's decision.

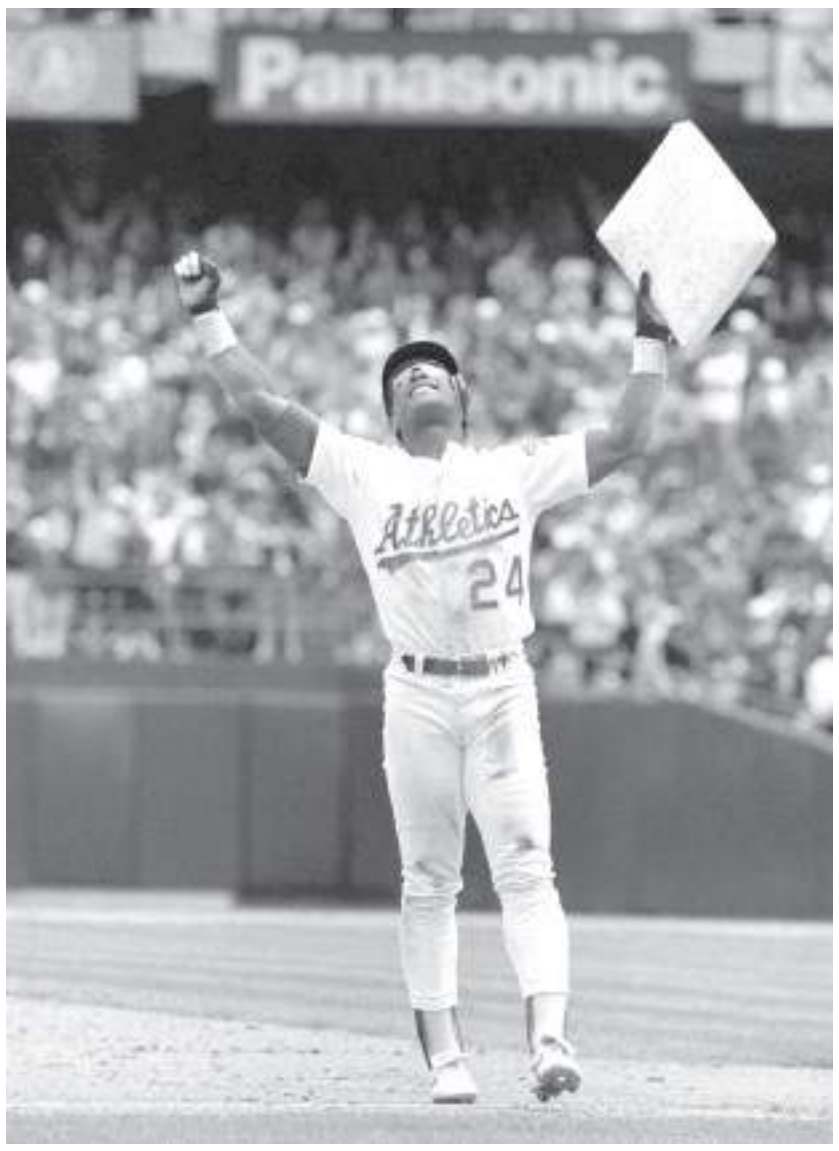
Henderson was with his family when he got the call Monday and pointed out that they have been with him through "all the glory and the headaches."

"They enjoyed it probably as much as I enjoyed it, probably even more," he said.

Rice, the 1978 AL MVP, was an eight-time All-Star who hit 382 home runs in 16 seasons with the Boston Red Sox from 1974-89. He had a .298 career batting average and 1,451 RBIs, and from 1977-79 averaged .320 with 41 homers and 128 RBIs.

He becomes the fourth Hall of Famer to have spent his entire career with the Red Sox, joining fellow left fielders Ted Williams and Carl Yastrzemski, along with second baseman Bobby Doerr.

"That's I think one of the biggest accomplishments," Rice said.



AP

In this May 1, 1991, file photo, Oakland Athletics' Rickey Henderson celebrates and raises third base after setting the all-time stolen base record during the Athletics' baseball game in Oakland, Calif., against the New York Yankees.

Grand jury said looking at Roger Clemens case

WASHINGTON (AP)—Nearly a year after Roger Clemens told Congress he did not use performance-enhancing drugs, a federal grand jury is being asked to determine whether he should be indicted on charges of lying under oath. The grand-jury probe was confirmed to The Associated Press on Monday by two people who were briefed on the matter. Both spoke on condition of anonymity because grand jury proceedings are supposed to be secret.

Congress asked the Justice Department to look into whether the seven-time Cy Young Award winner lied last February, when he testified under oath at a deposition and a public House hearing that he never took illegal performance enhancers.

That contradicted the sworn testimony of his former personal trainer, Brian McNamee, who said under oath that he injected Clemens with steroids and human growth hormone. Clemens last played in the major leagues in 2007, with the New York Yankees.

The Justice Department brought the case to a grand jury—which is based in Washington—after an 11-month FBI inquiry. A grand jury allows prosecutors to get sworn testimony from witnesses and collect documents. The investigation is being led by Assistant U.S. Attorney Daniel P. Butler, the prosecutor in the D.C. Madam case.

"It's standard operating procedure for a prosecutor, and it's probably been convened for a while," Clemens' lead lawyer, Rusty Hardin, said through spokesman Patrick Dorton.

The grand jury's involvement first was reported by ESPN.com.

Barry Bonds, baseball's career home run leader and a seven-time MVP, is scheduled for a March trial on charges he lied to a federal grand jury in 2003 when he denied knowingly using performance-enhancing drugs. That is part of a separate investigation in California that also ensnared star Olympic sprinter Marion Jones, who was sentenced to six months in prison for lying about her steroid use.

McNamee's lawyer, Richard Emery, said his client has not been called as a grand jury witness or received a subpoena. But Emery does expect McNamee to testify again.

"We will be cooperating. We've been in contact with the federal authorities for a year and a half," Emery said. "We look forward to the results, which we fully expect will show that Brian has been telling the truth all along."

Clemens' former teammate, Andy Pettitte, also has not received a subpoena. Pettitte corroborated some of McNamee's claims in a sworn statement to Congress.

Former New York Mets clubhouse attendant Kirk Radomski, sentenced to five years' probation last year after pleaded guilty to distributing steroids and laundering money, led investigators to McNamee.

McNamee told federal agents and baseball investigator George Mitchell that he injected Clemens more than a dozen times with steroids and HGH from 1998-01. Clemens' repeated denials of those accusations drew Congress' attention—and the former pitcher then made more denials under oath.

Clemens also filed a civil defamation suit against McNamee, a case pending in federal court in Houston.

Since the referral by Congress, federal investigators have been probing Clemens' past.

Shaun Kelley, owner of a Houston training center, said he had taken a polygraph test for FBI investigators John Longmire and Heather Young in April and that he had denied meeting Clemens or providing the pitcher or any of the pitcher's associates with illegal substances. Kelley said he employed Clemens' stepsister Bonnie Owens for about a year.

Kelley said neither he nor his lawyers had been contacted by the grand jury.

"It is just not fair for me, because they just come down here and throw me under the bus, and I lose half-a-million of business," Kelly said Monday in a telephone interview.

"I know in my heart I passed it," he said of the polygraph, "but the FBI is not known for admitting their mistakes."

Rep. Henry Waxman, the California Democrat who chaired the House committee that heard the testimony of Clemens and McNamee last year, declined to comment.

Red Sox announce Smoltz signing

BOSTON (AP)—John Smoltz said Monday night that he will be a starter once he is ready to pitch for the Boston Red Sox after missing most of last season following major shoulder surgery.

Smoltz, whose signing is to be announced formally Tuesday, is the only pitcher in baseball history with 200 wins and 150 saves. He attended Monday night's Boston Celtics' 115-109 overtime win over the Toronto Raptors and was interviewed during a break in the action.

"It's going to be (as) a starter," he said when asked how the Red Sox would use him. "They're going to make sure that I'm ready to not only pitch, but pitch strong down the stretch and into the playoffs because that's what I like to do."

The Red Sox scheduled a news conference for 10 a.m. Tuesday to announce the signing.

Preliminary agreement was reached last week on the deal, believed to be one year and $5.5 million, with a possible added $5 million in performance bonuses. The deal was expected to be contingent on Smoltz passing a physical on Monday.

The Red Sox already had Josh Beckett, Jon Lester, Daisuke Matsuzaka and Tim Wakefield in the rotation and added former Los Angeles Dodgers right-hander Brad Penny last week. Youngsters Clay Buchholz and Justin Masterson also could figure in that group.

The 41-year-old Smoltz has said he feels healthy enough to pitch at least one more year.

Golfer of the Year tourney this weekend

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The 2008 Golfer of the Year title will be at stake this weekend when the Fil-Taga Golfers Association holds two rounds of play at the Kingfisher Golf Links in Talofofo and the Marianas Country Club in Marpi.

Kingfisher will host the first round of the Golfer of the Year tournament, which will feature the 12 monthly winners in 2008.

Check-in time is at 11am, while tee off is at 11:30am this Saturday.

The second round of play at MCC this Sunday will have the same check-in and tee times and the event will double as the 2009 January Ace of the Month tournament.

Besides getting the 2008 Golfer of the Year title, the top winner in the weekend tournament will take home a trophy and $300 cash.

A special prize of $300 will be given to a participant who will make a hole-in-one shot in the second round, while closest to the pin winners on par-3 holes will pocket $25 each.

Each of the 12 monthly winners in 2008 will receive a trophy and $100 after the second round of play.

Mike Cruz earned the last qualifying slot for the Golfer of the Year tournament when he topped the December Ace of the Month event at MCC on Dec. 21.

Cruz prevailed over 20 other golfers with his net 66. The 21-handicapper had a gross 87. He was four strokes ahead of second placer Matutino Adony (70) and enjoyed a six-shot advantage over five others who had identical net scores of 72.

Locked in a five-way tie for third to seventh place were Pete Reyes, Manny Corcuerra, Ted Malaran, Jun Ortiz, and Greg Gamboa.

Other Fil-Taga members who joined the December Ace tournament were Rodrigo Nimes (73), Freddie Cataluna (74), Joe Miranda (74), Mando Guban (74), Jason Gatdula (74), Jhun Calma (77), Rey Ferraz (77), Manny Po (77), James Lin (78), Jess Yumul (79), Rene Batallones (80), Williams Retardo (81), Richard Meimban (810), and Dionysus Geva (82).

Established in 1993, Fil-Taga's tournaments operate under a computer-controlled handicap system that creates parity among players in the A and B Flights.

Custom Goodwill Softball this weekend

The Custom Goodwill Softball Tournament will be held this coming weekend, Jan. 17-19, at the Dandan Ballfield.

For all teams interested, the entrance fee of $150 is due at the meeting scheduled this Thursday, Jan. 15, 6pm at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium pavilion. For more information, call Craig Sanchez at 483-3295 or Sam Salas at 285-7527. ***(PR)***

WILLIAMS

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Gigi Zapanta (fifth), and Elena Soll (sixth).

The six female bowlers advanced to the next round after an eight-game qualifying roll-offs.

Camacho was the top qualifier after earning 1,449 pinfalls in the eight-game roll-offs for an average of 181.13 pinfalls per game.

In second place was Ron Cal (1,376), followed by Villavicencio (1,343), Zapanta (1,315), Williams (1,304), and Soll (1,288).

Seven other lady keglers joined the roll-offs, but failed to make the cut. The list includes Gina Sablan (1,282), Mhel Regis (1,280), Lala Taitano (1,246), Carol McKenzie (1,238), Gloria Omechelang (1,222), Diana Chong (1,195), and Lynn Santos (1,144).

Camacho and Cal automatically moved into the semifinals after claiming the Top 2 spots in the eight-game roll-offs, while the four other qualifiers battled for the two remaining semis berths.

The No. 3 seed Villavicencio was paired with the No. 6 Soll with the former gaining semis entry after an 181-151 win over the latter.

In the other pairing, the No. 5 seed Williams edged the No. 4 Zapanta in the closest game in the step-ladder finals winning by only three pinfalls, 169-166.

In the semis, Villavicencio defeated Camacho, 176-162, dethroning the 2007 Queen of the Lanes title holder and setting a finals duel with Williams.

Williams moved one step away from sitting on her throne when she topped Cal in the other semis pairing, 227-200.

Winning the 2008 title was a big improvement for Williams, who finished last in the step-ladder finals in the 2007 season-finale roll-offs.

In the 2008 season-finale qualifying roll-offs, Williams was impressive in the first two games scoring 193 and 200 pinfalls in Game 1 and 2. But she slowed down in the last six games games (171, 129, 145, 164, 125, 177) to finish only fifth among the 13 participants.

Williams regained her form in the step-ladder finals to join Bing Prince of the Lanes Zack Cruz in the winners' circle.

Cruz, Williams, and the winner of the season-finale of the King of the Lanes tournament will receive their awards this weekend.

Cruz claimed the Bing Prince of the Lane title after beating Leanne Yarobwemal in the finals, 188-118.

CUC

From Page 28

complete innings, 9-7, when CUC pitcher Dolorina Panuelo allowed only three hits, walked two, and struck out three in the last three innings to steal the win.

CUC grabbed the lead at the bottom of the fifth inning with Panuelo, anew, at the forefront of the team's juggernaut. She connected on a two-run single driving Evelyn Kani and Cristina Philip home and tying the game at 9-all.

Catcher Mel Camacho singled bringing Jenny Palacios home and putting CUC in the driver's seat, 10-9.

At the top of the last inning, Edwina Baulechong led off for NMC, singled, but was later beaten to second base.

Connie Camacho was next at-bat and walked, while Panuelo struck out third batter Tracy Uchau.

Kuki Pangelinan batted fourth and hit a line drive, but Kani, who replaced Palacios at shortstop in the fifth inning, caught the ball to end NMC's winning run.

MEN'S
PSS 19, PIC 14

In the men's division game, Public School System snapped its three-game losing skid with a 19-14 triumph over Pacific Islands Club.

PSS improved to a 3-6 record, while PIC dropped to a 2-7 slate.

A six-run bottom of the sixth allowed PSS to thwart PIC, which was down by only two runs, 11-13, after five complete innings.

PIC's chances to steal the game disappeared when it scored only one run at the top of the sixth and two at the top of the last inning.

Outfielder Derrick Aughenbaug and rightfielder Asap Ogumoro went 3-for-3 for PSS.

Docomo 24, POI 5

In the last game of the night, Docomo pounded Pacific Oriental, Inc., 24-5.

Payton Sakuma starred in Docomo's easy win hitting two homers and recording seven RBIs.

Shortstop Tyrone Omar, outfielder Kuich Damian, and third baseman Gloyd Martin had one homer apiece in Docomo's sixth win in 10 games. Damian and Sakuma both went 4-for-4 at-bat for Docomo, while first baseman Luis Ngiraikelau was also perfect going 3-for-3.

Docomo started the game with an eight-run top of the first and never looked back from thereon.

POI scored only in two innings making two runs in the first and three in the fourth inning.

15

From Page 28

Manglona boasts an unbeaten 3-0 record, while Teregeyo has a 4-3 mark.

Thirteen other supporting bouts are featured in Trech Tech's initial offering for 2009.

Fiden Teregeyo of Independent and Ray Apiag of Team Guam will have their debut fight when they duel in the 145-lb. bout.

Jacob Ilo of Zalaka will also debut against fellow first-timer Vince Masga of Trench Tech in the 140-lb fight.

Jordan Ogo of Team Haga will go for his second win in as many bouts when he meets Pwang's Eddie Paulis.

Three other Team Haga fighters will have their debuts with Stanley Go facing Mark "The Dark" Nuque of Trench Tech (1-0), Daniel Ogo challenging Kevin Esteves (0-1) of Marianas Elite, and John Ogo squaring off with Trench Tech's Seung Min Lee.

Two DAT Gym fighters will see action in their first bout with E.J. Palacios debuting against Dino Mettao, who lost his first fight. Palacios' teammate Francisco Palacios will duel Marianas Elite's Martin Ayuyu, who holds a 1-2 record.

The 145-lb. bout will also feature debuting fighters in Joe "Bad Manners" Aldan of Predators and Peter Boy Alvarez of MTM Guam.

Pwang's Regal Mality hopes to improve his 0-2 record when he faces MTM Guam's Robert A. Baza, who will be making his debut in ROP VI.

Extreme's Marvin Somol and Trench Tech USA's Kyle Peterson will go for win No. 2 when they battle the debuting Barry Mality and George Cruz, respectively.

The 140-lb. bout will be a CNMI vs. Guam affair as Marianas Elite's Derek "Pinchi" Rangamar meets Tony "The Wrech" Reyes of Spike 22 Guam.

Tickets for the event are now being sold at Boarderline Skate Shop, 670 Rock Steady, Han Nam Market in Koblerville, Kagman Mobil, and Pacific Trading Co. at $20 each.

For more information, contact Trench Tech, Inc. president and promote Cuki Alvarez at 483-4MMA, 483-4899, and 235-3800.

WONG

From Page 28

in at 1:10.72. In the finals, he raced against swimmers from Japan, China, the U.S., and Australia and posted 1:09.86, which could have been a new CNMI National Record had Wong was not disqualified for an illegal downward dolphin kick.

Staal, the other Tsunami Saipan swimmer who qualified to join individual races, swam in the 50m freestyle preliminary race Sunday and beat rival Ken Barcinas of Guam with the CNMI bet timing in at 25.86 seconds. Staal was also an alternate in the B finals.

A day before the 50m freestyle event, Staal joined his teammates in the 400m freestyle race and timed in at 55.93 seconds in his 100m lap. It was past his 100m freestyle mark of 57.36 seconds, which Staal recorded on Day 2 of the tournament.

Staal, along with Wong, Shin Kimura, and Cooper Graf, also joined the 400m freestyle relay on Saturday and 400m medley relay on Sunday.

"They did a great job in the relay races. All the people in he pool deck saw how our swimmers tried their best to keep pace with their opponents from Japan, U.S., New Zealand, Australia, and China," Tsunami Saipan coach Hiro Kimura said.

"Competing in the JPP for the first time was a great moment for our swimmers. It was also a first step toward our goal which is to compete more in very competitive tournaments," he added.

Tsunami Saipan swimmers returned from their impressive stint at the Pan Pacific meet Monday afternoon and Kimura said they will resume training this week to prepare for future tournaments.

The Pan Pacific meet also featured swimmers from Canada, India, Trinidad & Tobago, Mexico, Guatemala, Mongolia, Hong Kong, Macau, and Palau.

The 18-and-under swim meet is a prestigious event with its previous competitors including winningest Olympian Michael Phelps, Liesel Jones, Brendan Hansen, Natalie Coughlin, and Kosuke Kitajima.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	31	9	.775	_
New Jersey	19	19	.500	11
Philadelphia	17	20	.459	12 1/2
Toronto	16	23	.410	14 1/2
New York	14	22	.389	15

Southeast Division

Orlando	30	8	.789	_
Atlanta	22	14	.611	7
Miami	19	17	.528	10
Charlotte	14	24	.368	16
Washington	7	30	.189	22 1/2

Central Division

Cleveland	29	6	.829	_
Detroit	22	13	.629	7
Milwaukee	19	21	.475	12 1/2
Chicago	16	22	.421	14 1/2
Indiana	13	25	.342	17 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

San Antonio	24	12	.667	_
New Orleans	22	12	.647	1
Houston	24	15	.615	1 1/2
Dallas	22	15	.595	2 1/2
Memphis	11	26	.297	13 1/2

Northwest Division

Denver	25	13	.658	_
Portland	23	14	.622	1 1/2
Utah	23	15	.605	2
Minnesota	11	25	.306	13
Oklahoma City	6	33	.154	19 1/2

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	30	6	.833	_
Phoenix	21	13	.618	8
Golden State	11	28	.282	20 1/2
Sacramento	9	29	.237	22
L.A. Clippers	8	29	.216	22 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Milwaukee 97, Washington 91
Boston 115, Toronto 109, OT
New Jersey 103, Oklahoma City 99, OT
New York 101, New Orleans 95
Portland 109, Chicago 95
Utah 120, Indiana 113

NBA LEADERS

Scoring

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Wade, Mia.	36	373	273	1045	29.0
James, Clev.	35	341	241	968	27.7
Bryant, LAL	36	348	229	971	27.0
Granger, Ind.	34	297	214	896	26.4
Nowitzki, Dall.	36	334	205	909	25.3
Durant, OKC.	37	320	191	878	23.7
Bosh, Tor.	38	305	276	895	23.6
Harris, N.J.	31	216	254	715	23.1
Roy, Port.	32	257	186	731	22.8
Carter, N.J.	37	287	197	840	22.7
Jefferson, Minn.	36	336	139	811	22.5
Johnson, Atl.	36	299	128	802	22.3
Stoudemire, Phoe.	34	263	211	740	21.8
Anthony, Den.	31	231	159	655	21.1
Gordon, Chi.	37	270	150	778	21.0
J. Terry, Dall.	37	284	110	757	20.5
Jamison, Wash.	36	283	128	735	20.4
Duncan, S.A.	36	288	158	734	20.4
Paul, N.O.	33	229	189	672	20.4
Howard, Orl.	36	249	224	722	20.1

FG Percentage

Nene, Den.	205	333	.616
O'Neal, Phoe.	179	305	.587
Okafor, Char.	210	361	.582
Howard, Orl.	249	437	.570
Bogut, Mil.	158	279	.566
Lee, N.Y.	209	370	.565
Millsap, Utah	204	366	.557
Biedrins, G.S.	222	399	.556
Gasol, LAL	233	422	.552
Stoudemire, Phoe.	263	479	.549

Rebounds

Camby, LAC	33	113	341	454 13.8
Howard, Orl.	36	160	335	495 13.8
Biedrins, G.S.	39	162	305	467 12.0
Murphy, Ind.	32	63	296	359 11.2
Lee, N.Y.	35	109	283	392 11.2
Okafor, Char.	38	150	265	415 10.9
Jefferson, Minn.	36	115	261	376 10.4
Duncan, S.A.	36	93	270	363 10.1
Bosh, Tor.	38	101	272	373 9.8
Millsap, Utah	34	128	195	323 9.5

Assists

Paul, N.O.	33	374	11.3
Williams, Utah	24	238	9.9
Nash, Phoe.	30	262	8.7
Calderon, Tor.	32	273	8.5
Kidd, Dall.	37	306	8.3
Duhon, N.Y.	35	286	8.2
B. Davis, LAC	30	241	8.0
Rondo, Bos.	39	301	7.7
Wade, Mia.	36	255	7.1
Billups, Den.	36	247	6.9

By The Associated Press

LOCAL SCORES

BUDWEISER SOFTBALL STANDINGS

Men's Division

DCCA	9	0
CPA	7	1
Freedom Air	7	1
Joeten Motors	7	2
No Zone	7	2
Beach Boys	6	2
Legislature	6	3
Docomo	6	4
DLNR	5	4
POI	4	4
DEQ/CRM	4	5
P & S	3	4
Law & Order	3	6
PSS	3	6
Customs	2	6
CHC	2	6
PIC	2	7
CUC	2	7
Mayors	1	8
Hopwood	0	8

Women's Division

NMC	7	1
DCCA	3	3
Finance	3	4
CUC	3	4
CHC	1	5

2009 Junior Pan Pacific Championships

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Tsunami Saipan's Cooper Graf, Rezne Wong, Shin Kimura, and Kai Staal enjoy a light moment after competing in the 800m relay race in the 2009 Junior Pan Pacific Championships in Guam last week.

Shin Kimura warms up for the morning race while coach Hiro Kimura looks on.

Tsunami Saipan swimmers relax with tankers from Mexico.

Tsunami Saipan swimmers are seen here posing underneath the CNMI flag before the opening ceremony of the tournament.

Kai Staal and other participants in the 50m freestyle wait for the start of the preliminary race.

Tsunami Saipan swimmers pose in front of the Athletes Village.

Participants in the 400m relay race at the starting block. Leading off for Tsunami Saipan is Rezne Wong.

Tsunami Saipan swimmers warm up.

Team Australia cheers for its swimmers.

Shin Kimura at the starting block in the 800m freestyle relay race.

Rezne Wong, left, and Kai Staal, head to the pool.

Colts coach Tony Dungy retires

Tony Dungy always considered football just a career path. Not his life's mission. On Monday, Dungy began the transition from head coach to full-time dad and devoted volunteer by announcing his retirement after seven years leading the Indianapolis Colts. 24

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Golfer of the Year tourney this weekend

The 2008 Golfer of the Year title will be at stake this weekend when the Fil-Taga Golfers Association holds two rounds of play at the Kingfisher Golf Links in Talofofo and the Marianas Country Club in Marpi. 26

Wong posts new personal best time

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Rezne Wong set a new personal best time in the 100m butterfly race Saturday and Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan completed its campaign in the 2009 Junior Pan Pacific Championships at the Leo Palace Resort Swimming Pool in Guam on Sunday with an eighth place finish out of the 12 participating teams.

Wong competed in the 100m butterfly event in the penultimate day of the meet and timed in at one minute, 2.44 seconds. With his new personal best, Wong was named an alternate in the B finals.

During Day 2 of the tournament, Wong qualified for the finals of the 100m breaststroke when he clocked

See WONG on Page 26

From left, Tsunami Saipan's Cooper Graf, Shin Kimura, coach Hiro Kimura, Kai Staal, and Rezne Wong show the CNMI flag after completing their 400m freestyle relay race in the 2009 Junior Pan Pacific Championships in Guam.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Williams gets Queen of the Lanes tiara

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Emi Williams picked up where she left off winning the season-ending roll-off Sunday to claim the 2008 Budweiser Queen of the Lanes title at the Saipan Bowling Center.

Williams

Williams topped the last three monthly roll-offs of 2008 and extended her winning run to four en route to beating five other female keglers for the Queen of the Lanes award.

The veteran bowler secured the crown when she defeated Yho Villavicencio in the finals, 179-149.

The four other lady keglers who joined Williams and Villavicencio in the step-ladder finals were Diane Camacho (third), Ron Cal (fourth),

See WILLIAMS on Page 26

CUC hands NMC Proa first loss

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The 2008 Inter Government/Business Softball League played its last game at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield Monday night and Commonwealth Utilities Corp. made it a memorable one stunning the then undefeated Northern Marianas College, 10-9, in the women's division game.

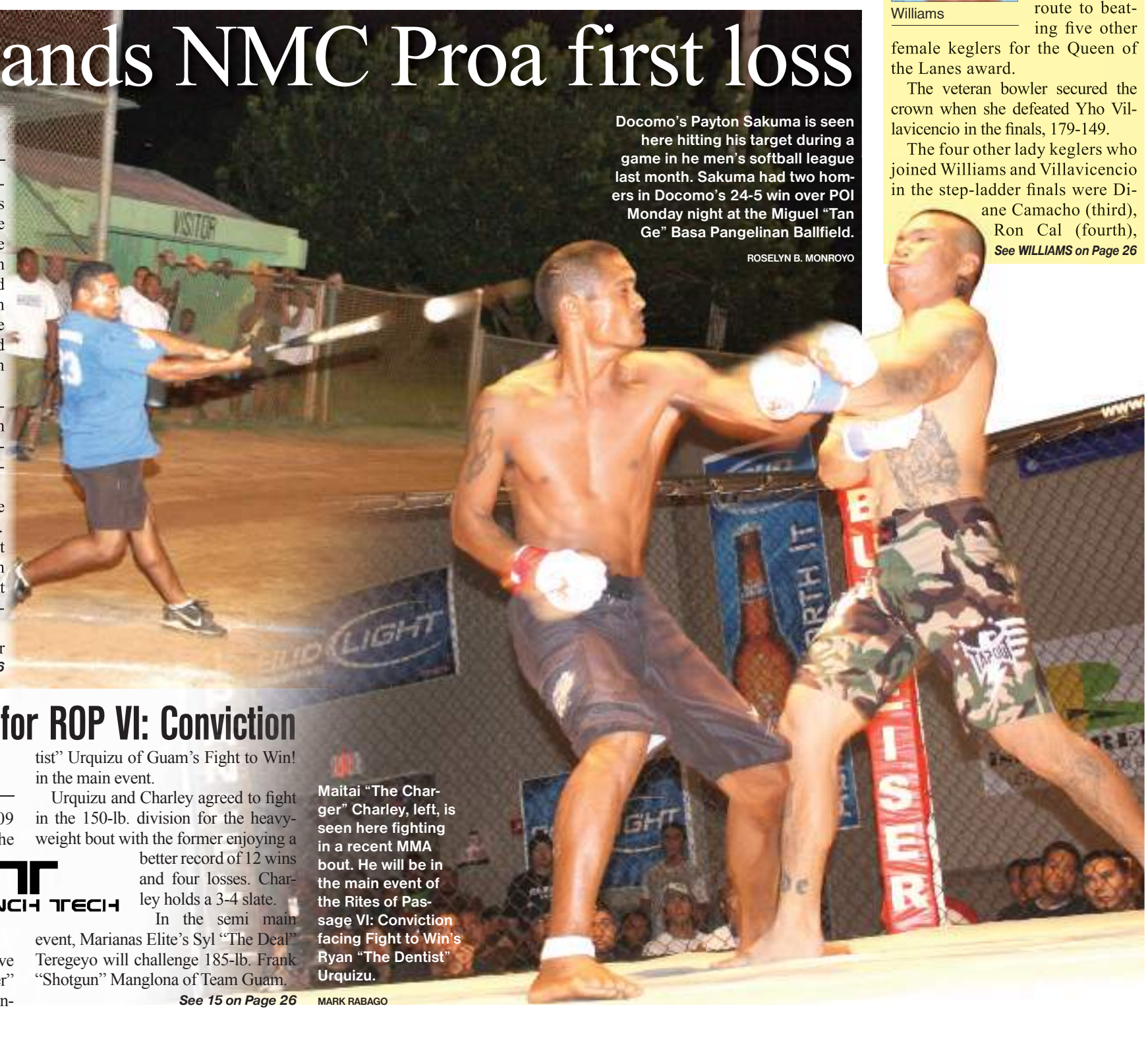
League coordinator Liz Palacios said all games at the "Tan Ge" ballfield are suspended starting tonight, as the facility will undergo renovations.

"We will move all the games at the Capital Hill Ballfield," Palacios said.

CUC shut out NMC in the last three innings to eke out a one-run win. CUC gained its third straight win in seven games, while NMC absorbed its first loss in eight matches.

NMC was still ahead after four

See CUC on Page 26



Docomo's Payton Sakuma is seen here hitting his target during a game in he men's softball league last month. Sakuma had two homers in Docomo's 24-5 win over POI Monday night at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

15 fights lined up for ROP VI: Conviction

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Trench Tech will kick off the 2009 season with 15 featured bouts in the Rites of Passage VI: Conviction, which will be held at Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Hall on Jan. 24.

Next weekend's ROP VI will have Marianas Elite's Maitai 'The Charger" Charley colliding with Ryan "The Dentist" Urquizu of Guam's Fight to Win! in the main event.

Urquizu and Charley agreed to fight in the 150-lb. division for the heavyweight bout with the former enjoying a better record of 12 wins and four losses. Charley holds a 3-4 slate.

In the semi main event, Marianas Elite's Syl "The Deal" Teregeyo will challenge 185-lb. Frank "Shotgun" Manglona of Team Guam.

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Maitai "The Charger" Charley, left, is seen here fighting in a recent MMA bout. He will be in the main event of the Rites of Passage VI: Conviction facing Fight to Win's Ryan "The Dentist" Urquizu.

MARK RABAGO